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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22ND 2015

New pharmacy helps two local charities

SEE PAGE 5

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Don't forget to turn your clocks back this Sunday!

Salute to our Welsh rugby and football heroes

SEE PAGE 41 and BACK PAGE

SCHOOL PUPILS PICK UP AWARD



Coychurch Primary School pupils proudly show off their Silver School Mark award. (SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 5).

Bridgend mayor's call for public to back town centre traders

THE mayor of Bridgend Town, Coun David White, has issued an impassioned appeal for the public to get behind the town centre traders.

His call follows "continuing negative press reports and comments by other forms of media".

He says that the redevelopment of the Rhiw car park – a £6 million project that will provide new homes and a revamped car park, was "too good to turn down" – as it was paid for by Welsh Government money.

He adds "traders need our custom during the next phase of regeneration".

(FOR THE MAYOR'S FULL STATEMENT, SEE PAGE 3).

Three students to carry Team Bridgend's flag at Miss Wales 2016!

PICTURED: Emma Khammaneechan, Hannah Meredith and Louise Hughes.

THREE young students have been selected to represent Bridgend county borough in the Miss Wales 2016 final.

They are: Emma Khammaneechan (20), from Brackla, a fine art student at Cardiff Met University, who also works part time at McArthur Glen; Hannah Meredith (17) from Bridgend, who is studying for a diploma in creative media at Bridgend College; and Louise Hughes (17) a beauty therapy student at Bridgend College, who lives in Ogmore Vale.

The three students are all in with chance of being crowned Miss Bridgend 2016 and also Miss Wales 2016 at the



Miss Wales final in April next year. The three-day final involves an 'empowerment day' with the UK's leading youth life-coach; a charity ball and a catwalk show.

In the run-up to the final, the young entrants will be tasked with fundraising for the Miss World charity, Beauty With A Purpose, which helps disadvantaged children worldwide. They will also be given a series of challenges to help them develop in confidence.

Paula Abbandonato, from Cardiff events and PR company Vibe, organiser of Miss Wales, aid: "Every year we have an amazing line up of young women come together at Miss Wales."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

HIGH STREET JEWELLERS
Cowbridge

Lorraine Hales & family would like to take this opportunity to announce our

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After almost 30 years in Cowbridge & over 40 years in the jewellery trade we shall sadly be closing our doors for the last time towards the end of this year.

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'Keep Rhiw toilets' says a Conservative AM

A REGIONAL Welsh Conservative AM has challenged Bridgend County Borough Council over its strategy regarding public toilets in Bridgend town.

Suzi Davies said: "I am concerned that Bridgend town centre is losing two sets of public toilets - Derwen Road and also the Rhiw centre.

"I am not sure of the council's strategic thinking here as they are retaining toilets at Cheapside within a stone's throw of the Asda store, which provide customer toilets, yet taking away the only toilets that serve the Rhiw Shopping Centre and the market.

"I have been told that they are contractually obliged to keep these toilets open, so I will be in touch to see what's going on.

"Traders in both the market and the town are not happy with the council's decision. While it is true that there will be toilets available at the bus station, they are a long way from the Rhiw centre, especially if you have a fractious toddler in tow or are an older person who may not be able to get to the bus station very easily.

"I would urge the council to have another think about this because toilet provision is a key factor in drawing shoppers into any town."

Council Leader Mel Nott said: "We would

much rather be investing in public toilet facilities instead of having to close some of them down, but I'm afraid that the cuts to local authority funding imposed by the Regional AM's party colleagues at Westminster has meant that Bridgend council now has to cover a £50m shortfall, and we can't do this and protect essential front line services without there being some kind of impact in other areas.

"So far, we have been able to avoid many of the larger scale cuts seen in other parts of Wales and limit the public effect of the funding shortfall to things like grass not being cut as often as we'd like, having fewer staff to empty litter bins or being forced to close down some toilets.

"It goes without saying that we would rather not be in this position, but that's the reality of what is going on, and it won't change until local authorities start receiving adequate funding again.

"Maybe then we will be able to have the luxury of engaging in the kind of 'strategic thinking' the Regional AM talks about without the millstone of massive cuts in public spending hanging around our necks.

"Incidentally, the toilets at the Rhiw and Derwen Road were reluctantly selected for closure because they received the lowest support during our public consultation on the matter."

Members learn the history of Dyffryn

THE October meeting of the Llantwit Major Probosc Club was held in Iltyd 216.

Vice president John Clarke welcomed members and, with the assistance of Roger Gullet, gave details and costings for the trip to Westonbirt Arboretum on Monday, October 26, and our annual dinner on November 6 in the golf club at St Athan.

The guest speaker will be Eluned Morgan, Baroness Morgan of Ely, a former student at Atlantic College, who served as an MEP in Brussels for 15 years.

Tony Meakins gave this month's talk on the history of Dyffryn House in the Vale from the mid-1300s to 1938.

The house was originally thought to belong to the Bishop of Llandaff in 1332, before going on to be the family home for the Button, Price and then the Cory families.

Many rooms in the house have now been restored by the National Trust - but, unfortunately, all the original furniture had been sold.

Most people go to visit the famous gardens, but obviously the house is also well worth a visit.

A vote of thanks on behalf of those present was given by Tony Turlton - our speaker's final task being to draw the monthly raffle, which was won by Mick Mason. **MM**

Pebble, a life-changing (walking) companion I can count on!

I LOVE my Pebble - it's changed my life. Being an MP is not good for your health - lots of stress, long hours, and far too many hours sitting down.

There is time in front of the computer, sitting in committee sessions and the Chamber. MPs were targeted to raise awareness among constituents about the need for exercise. I agreed to do it because of the high levels of obesity we have in Wales and was shocked at the results.

The Pebble is a small, black, appropriately-shaped object that you attach to your clothing. It counts your steps, calorie usage, distances walked, and for how long you have been active.

On the first days I wore it, I worked all day at the computer tackling the modern-day curse - the email. I had fallen into the trap of thinking that because my brain was active my body was.

At the end of the day, I found I had walked only 630 steps; less than a quarter of a mile. My activity had been mainly going up and down stairs at home, fetching food and drink and doing domestic chores.

I set myself a target of at least 3,500 steps a day or walking two miles using up about 260 calories. It's not good but better than 630 steps.

My best day was 9,000 steps. The Pebble is a small prompt to make sure we watch our health and don't underestimate how sedentary our lives are becoming.

Newton WI news

AT the October meeting, after the usual WI business was attended to, Newton WI celebrated harvest festival in style with a delicious fish and chip supper, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

On September 16, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the WI with a buffet and entertainment provided by the talented Accordion Band. The evening proved a great success with singing and

I try never to use the car to drive into Porthcawl. I try to walk into the Commons, rather than take the bus. I walk up the stairs, rather than take the lift.

Do I feel healthier? I cannot say. But I do know I love walking along the coast watching the light on the sea, rather than zooming past in the car - and that's a big plus.

A slower pace, lungs full of fresh air (well not always when in London) and time to look around you. Try it for yourself!

The Pebble can change your life and your understanding. Another was attending the Bridgend Business Awards ceremony last month. I set myself the task of following up on the nominations and winners to learn more about the companies and organisations.

I have long felt that Bridgend is home to some very special, unique companies, many of them world leading, that we just know nothing about.

It leaves us with a lack of value in where we live, an underestimation of Bridgend's place in the world and the work opportunities on our doorstep for our young people.

Last week, I went to Customised Sheet Metal on the Brackla industrial estate. I'm not sure what the managing director, Malcolm Pearce, thought my life was like, but I failed to pass any of his questions.

I had not visited any of the art installations, bars or shops in London where his work is on display.

This company is hidden away just outside

of Coity (and I do mean hidden away, it took me ages driving around the estate to find it).

Work ranges from trolleys for Amazon to medical testing units for the NHS, to soup makers and bespoke wheelchair units. Jaguar, Volvo, Panasonic, Tata, 3M you name it and this Bridgend company is there making bespoke solutions to unique problems. Have a look at their website. It was a fascinating visit.

Walking around the factory, I asked Malcolm what his biggest problem was and how I could help. I expected something about tax, red tape or export licences. Instead, his priority was increasing the number of people with A and B-grade maths, vital for working in engineering.

This small ask hides a major crisis locally and nationally: Bridgend still has a high level of manufacturing companies compared to many other areas of the UK.

We have a number of engineering companies that are world leading BUT we are not replacing men like Malcolm.

We have a national shortage of young people training to be engineers. Engineers are our future wealth creators; not the banking industry which soaks up so many of our young people with maths qualifications with seductive high wages.

A day with Malcolm and his team would inspire anyone to work harder at maths and understand the creativity it can bring.

Prison 'first'

Creativity and maths has to take me next to Parc Prison where, again, Bridgend leads the way. I was invited by Liz Singer, our last High Sheriff, to hear a presentation about the Invisible Walls approach of Parc. This approach is changing prison policy in the UK, Netherlands and even Malta.

In simple terms, the approach sees the prisoner and his family all being impacted by the crime and punishment by imprisonment. Family breakdown, drugs use, non-school attendance, homelessness, unemployment are all challenged and changed by the Invisible Walls approach.

An 82 per cent reduction in drugs smuggled into the prison; 30 per cent reduction in non-school attendance; a fall from 90 per cent to 24 per cent of prisoners misusing drugs and alcohol by the end of the project; 95 per cent of prisoners having to face the impact of their crimes on their families, relationships, communities and life chances of their children.

It's a tough approach that works and it's headed up by a local work force changing lives and ultimately saving huge amounts of money on reoffending.

Take another look at where you live. We are hiding our successes and should hold our heads high. Let's get up out of our seats and look at what's really around us.

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report from Westminster for GEM readers.



'BIGGER AND BETTER' - it wasn't an insult!

OH, the sensitivities of social media!

Last year, PAWS (Porthcawl Animal Welfare Society) was grateful that Owen Money hosted a brilliant evening on their behalf, with super supporting artists from as far away as Newcastle, all in support of our work with local pets (especially the rehoming of dogs).

This year, on October 29 at The Hi-Tide, Owen is supporting us again, this time with his own band, The Wrinklies.

Unfortunately, our advertising of this on Facebook and our website included the phrase 'bigger and

better line-up'. This was purely advertising, but has apparently upset some of last year's artists.

We would like to assure them that no offence was intended, and their contributions really were admired and appreciated.

So, we hope they will forgive and encourage all their friends to come again.

In the end, it's all about having a good evening and supporting our four-legged friends.

Tickets are available from PAWS Shop in Lias Road, Porthcawl or the Hi-Tide Inn. **Andrew Collier** for PAWS, Porthcawl.

Bridge too far?

COULD someone please tell me what is happening with the railway bridge at Ewenny?

It was supposed to be completed at the end of July (set in stone!) as reported.

Here we are in October, and there are still traffic lights, barriers and a path to nowhere is incomplete.

C Lawson, Llantwit Major.

PACT meetings

REST BAY and Precinct, Wildmill on NOTTAGE PACT at Thursday, November 12 Nottage Scout Hall, at 6.30pm.

OLDCASTLE PACT at The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School on Wednesday, November 25 at 6.30pm.

NEWCASTLE PACT at Westward Community Centre on Monday, December 7 at 6.30pm.

CEFN GLAS, LLANGWYDD and BRYNHYFRYD PACT at Westward Community Centre, on Monday, December 7 at 6.30pm.

BRYN TIRION, LALESTON and MERTHYR MAWR PACT at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston on Thursday, December 10 at 7pm.

PORTHCAWL WEST CENTRAL PACT at Trinity Church (Room 5) on Tuesday, November 3, at 7pm.

MORFA WILDMILL PACT at the Community Life Centre, The

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL OCTOBER 29)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
22 Thur	01.19	7.9	14.04	8.2
23 Fri	02.48	8.1	15.26	8.5
24 Sat	04.04	8.5	16.33	9.1
25 Sun	04.03	9.3	16.27	9.8
26 Mon	04.57	9.9	17.19	10.3
27 Tues	05.47	10.4	18.08	10.7
28 Wed	06.29	10.7	18.54	10.9
29 Thur	07.14	10.8	19.38	10.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Bridgend Mayor appeals to residents: 'Let's all get together to support town traders!'

I AM writing in my role of Mayor of the town of Bridgend in respect of the redevelopment of the Rhiw car park into affordable housing and a new car park.

I fully understand why this work needs to be carried out; it would have been a missed opportunity and foolish of Bridgend Council to turn down nearly £6 million of Welsh Government money when it could be used to build new homes and replace an aged, failing car park.

However, I am appealing to members of the public to continue to support the town traders during this period and recognise the town is still open for business in full.

In my view, continuing negative press reports and comments by other forms of

media can only damage the town, and worsen the trading environment for those concerned as nobody benefits from this.

The traders, Bridgend County Borough Council and Bridgend Town Council have in partnership initiated a number of schemes to encourage shoppers, including free parking at council run car parks for a trial period after 3pm Monday – Saturday.

A number of events will be taking place in the run-up to the Christmas period, when Santa comes to town.

I acknowledge that there are still areas of the town that are in need of redevelopment, and to own a shop in Bridgend can be very difficult and a struggle from week to week.

However, the regeneration team are working very hard in trying to identify funding and partners to develop these areas

of town. In my discussions with the regeneration team, I have no doubt their vision will help to create jobs, offer much needed housing, leisure opportunities and this will support the town to become more viable and vibrant.

I know that the process of change can be painful. But no-one who compares Nolton Street now, with what it was, can doubt the need for change.

Bridgend Council have worked in partnership with local traders, to create an attractive environment for shoppers and traders alike.

Furthermore, their vision will help to breathe new life into the town and will continue to encourage new local and national businesses to invest here, as local high streets still continue to contribute millions of pounds to the economy across Wales, and are an important and vital service for

our community.

That said, what the town of Bridgend requires here and now is the continued support from local residents: recognition the town is still open for business and the traders need our custom during the next phase of regeneration.

There is still plenty of parking in town, at the Brackla multi-storey, the car park next to Wilkinson's, the Embassy, and the new car park on the site of Boards Garage is opening shortly.

I would urge everyone in Bridgend to support the traders and work together in making sure the town becomes the town we all want it to be – viable, vibrant and sustainable for the future – and the only people who can do this is ourselves, by ensuring we shop in the town.

Coun David White,
Town Mayor of Bridgend.

UK award for lifesaving service pioneer Delyth

Delyth receives her award from Professor Huon Gray, NHS England's National Clinical Director for Heart Disease.



A SPECIALIST nurse who helped pioneer a lifesaving service in Wales, has now won a UK award – for going beyond the call of duty.

Delyth Townsend was nominated for the Heart UK award by one of her former patients, who praised her "wonderful, caring" nature.

Based in Bridgend's Princess of Wales Hospital, but covering the whole of south west Wales, Delyth is a clinical nurse specialist looking after people with Familial Hypercholesterolaemia (FH).

FH is a common genetic disorder causing high cholesterol levels from birth.

If left untreated, it can cause the arteries to narrow and clog, potentially leading to early coronary heart disease.

But once identified, FH can easily be controlled with the use of cholesterol-lowering medication combined with a healthy diet and lifestyle.

The all-Wales FH screening service was established in 2010 when funding was obtained from the Welsh Government and the British Heart Foundation.

It followed a pilot project run at Cardiff's University Hospital of Wales and Princess of Wales Hospital from 2005-10.

It was during the pilot that Delyth first met Suzanne Sheppard, an FH patient who this year

nominated her for the Rianna Wingett Award.

This is presented by Heart UK, the national cholesterol charity, to a healthcare professional deemed to have gone beyond the call of duty for FH.

Suzanne said Delyth had been tirelessly helping FH patients for many years and had been fundamental to the success of the screening project.

Suzanne, who lives in Cardiff, added: "Delyth has a wonderful, caring nature and is an absolute expert in ensuring her patients are looked after in the most professional manner."

"I have benefited from her care and while she no longer covers my area, I have no doubt her new patients feel the same way."

"She never asks for anything in return for all of her efforts and she is

unwavering in her search to find and treat FH patients."

Delyth, who holds clinics throughout the ABMU and Hywel Dda health board areas, received the award during the Heart UK National Conference held in the University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield.

It was presented to her by Professor Huon Gray, NHS England's National Clinical Director for Heart Disease.

Delyth said: "I didn't even know I had been nominated until I had an email asking me if I was attending the conference and discovered I had won the award."

"It was a really nice surprise. I feel very pleased, especially as it came from one of my patients. It means that what you are doing is worthwhile."

Sprucing up the town centre!

DURING the summer months, Bridgend Town Council's Sprucers – Adam Davies, Paul Davies and Matthew Thomas – have been hard at work making the town centre cleaner and tidier to improve the environment and make it more shopper friendly.

Apart from daily attention to over 350 hanging baskets, 11 flower towers and five oak barrels, the Sprucers have been active in removing gum from the pavements, cleaning the telephone kiosks and general painting tasks.

Earlier this year, under the leadership of Coun Richard Thomas and his brother Gordon, 38 bags of litter were removed from the Graig steps in the Newcastle Hill Conservation Area;



Adam Davies, Paul Davies and Matthew Thomas

and only last week, a return visit was made when a further 15 bags of refuse were gathered up and removed from site with the help of BCBC's Cleaner Streets team.

The town council also carried out its annual clearance of public

footpaths and attended to numerous landscaping areas around the town centre.

Projects for the coming winter period include further painting projects, cleansing of all litter bin structures in the town centre, replacing those badly rusted, and

tackling the replacement of all the wayside seating which is well past its sell-by date.

Commenting on the long list of tasks undertaken by the Town Council Sprucers, Coun David Unwin, chairman of finance, paid tribute to their small dedicated team of outside staff and vowed that their work would continue to enhance Bridgend town:

"There is no doubt that the town council will continue to take a greater role in the maintenance of the town centre and assist BCBC in anyway that is practical and helpful in what are difficult times of tight finance – but I have no doubt we shall overcome for the benefit of Bridgend town residents, traders and visitors alike," he said.

Charity evening to help Little Princess Trust

A PENCOED business is holding a charity evening in aid of the Little Princess Trust on Thursday, October 29.

The event (6.15pm to 8.15pm) is at Laser me Perfect, 6a Penybont Road, Pencoed, and tickets are £5.

A spokeswoman said: "The aim of the evening is to do a live facial demonstration, have wine and nibbles, and a charity raffle."

"All guests will receive a goody bag and

all the money raised will go to the Little Princess Trust, a charity which provides human hair wigs to children up to and including age 23, suffering from hair loss due to medical treatments or alopecia.

"The sister business of Laser me Perfect is Inspiration Wigs which provides wigs on behalf of the Little Princess. Other local businesses will be supporting the event by donating raffle prizes."

For more information, telephone 01656 856686.

PACT meetings

BRACKLA PACT – joint PACT meeting, Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, October 22 at 6.30pm.

FELINDRE, HENDRE, PENPRYSG (PENCOED) and **COYCHURCH PACT** – Miners' Welfare Hall, Pencoed on November 2 at 2pm.

PORTHCAWL WEST CENTRAL PACT – Trinity Church (room five) on November 3 at 7pm.

MORFA WILDMILL PACT – The Community Life Centre, The Precinct, Wildmill on November 12 at 2pm.

OLDCASTLE PACT – The library, Brynteg Comprehensive School on November 25 at 6.30pm.



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FREE HALF TERM FUN

WITH free-of-charge scary Hallowe'en family activities and children's play schemes, Bridgend Communities First has plenty of family fun to keep children occupied during school half term!

Create terrifying pumpkin carvings, witches brooms, delicious Hallowe'en cup cakes and soup, haunting face painting and winter hanging baskets and scary soaps at one of Bridgend Communities First's free of charge family Hallowe'en activity sessions during half term.

Free of charge Hallowe'en activities will be at Marlas Youth Centre in North Cornelly on Tuesday, October 27 from 10am-2.30pm, Westward Community Centre in Cefn Glas on Wednesday, October 28 from 12.30-3pm, Evanstown Community Centre on Thursday, October 29 from 10am-1pm and Wildmill Community Centre on Friday, October 30 from 12.30-3pm. For further details on Bridgend Communities First's Hallowe'en activities, call 01656 643514.

There are Hallowe'en family events organised

by Caerau Development Trust and Friends of Oakwood which are supported by Bridgend Communities First on Thursday, October 29 at Caerau Development Trust from 5pm-7.30pm and Maesteg Celtic Athletic Social Club from 3pm-5pm.

Free of charge Bridgend Communities First Mini Play4Life plays schemes for children aged three to seven during half term are great fun for parents/guardians and children to enjoy arts and crafts, sports and lots more.

Mini play schemes will be at Blackmill Flying Start building on October 27 from 1.30pm-3pm, Sam Lifelong Learning Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 28 from 10.30am-12pm and Bettws Primary School on Wednesday, October 28 from 1.30pm-3pm. All children will need to be supervised by their parent/guardian at all times.

To book your free place for Mini Play4Life play schemes, call Mari Sutton on 01656 815222.

Bridgend Communities First is funded by the Welsh Government.



ABOVE:

Headmaster Simon Antwis, guest speaker Geoffrey Howell, and the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress of Porthcawl.

'Star Wars' lessons for St Clare's pupils!

ST CLARE'S School at Newton, Porthcawl, has revived the tradition of rewarding its young achievers with an annual prize day ceremony.

Boys and girls from the Prep School, right up to Sixth Form, received prizes for academic excellence and sporting achievements.

This year, St Clare's School welcomed Robert and Ann Lee, the deputy Mayor and deputy Mayoress of Porthcawl as guests of honour, with Geoff Howell as guest speaker. Geoff (67), a retired aerospace engineer who worked on the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) more commonly known as the 'Star Wars'

project in the 1980s, is also a chair of governors for several schools in Bristol.

Addressing a full house at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion, he shared some of his favourite motivational quotes with the audience: "Education is what remains after you have forgotten everything you learned in school"; "Live the life you imagine"; and "Set your course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship".

Headmaster Simon Antwis commented: "St Clare's prize day is a chance to celebrate the achievements of our pupils and to showcase some of their talents. It's also a chance to reflect on a significant year in the history of the school and of course an opportunity to meet and talk with each other."

MP WARNS OF HALLOWE'EN BLAZE RISKS

THE Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon is campaigning to raise awareness of the potential fire risks of children's fancy dress costumes.

She said: "Currently, the law classes fancy dress costumes as toys rather than clothes meaning that they undergo far less rigorous safety tests. But Sainsbury's and other supermarkets have introduced more stringent testing, following a campaign by Claudia Winkelman, the host of BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing*, whose daughter was burned when her Hallowe'en costume caught fire."

The MP is also eager to raise awareness after her own childhood experience: "I was about three, sitting by the coal fire, and my mother heard what she described as a 'whoosh' sound. When she looked across at me I was in flames."

"She knocked me to the floor and rolled me in the fireside rug. Mum's hands were slightly burned, but



because I was wearing what was known as a 'liberty bodice', I escaped burns."

"My brand new nylon dress melted up onto the bodice and saved me."

"The event organised in the Commons was very informative and I hope people locally will heed the warnings about the dangers of some of these fancy dress outfits. Of course, clothing will never be completely fire retardant, so the other thing which we are encouraging parents to do is use LED tea lights."

Using battery operated candles takes away a lot of the risk

associated with events like Hallowe'en."

John Carolan, head of non-food buying at Sainsbury's, said: "The safety of children is our top priority, and this event was a great opportunity to highlight the importance of testing children's dress-up clothing to the most rigorous standards available."

"We welcome the calls to make legal requirements even tougher, as this will help safeguard our children. We're also encouraging customers to minimise risks by using our LED tea lights instead of candles when children are around."

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Scooting and cycling pupils pick up award

RIGHT:
A pupil shows off the award.

COYCHURCH Primary has joined a select group of local schools that have achieved the Silver School Mark award from Sustrans – the charity that encourages people to take more journeys by walking, cycling, scooting and public transport.

A number of initiatives helped Coychurch to pick up the award, Headteacher Sue Hurry said: "To achieve this mark, everyone at Coychurch needed to show a long-term commitment to cycling, scooting and walking to school.

"Our teachers have worked hard to embed this ethos within the school curriculum and we have also encouraged the wider community to get involved by urging everyone to take part in the annual Big Pedal initiative and promoting safer active journeys within our local area."

"We are delighted



that our efforts have been recognised by Sustrans Cymru. We're very proud to be one of the few schools in Bridgend county borough to have achieved the award and we are already busy planning events to count towards our Gold award."

BCBC's Sustrans schools officer Roger Dutton said: "Congratulations to Coychurch Primary School on achieving this award. They have demonstrated a huge amount of work and

commitment, and also excelled in the Big Pedal initiative earlier this year.

"During the Big Pedal competition, their pupils clocked up more journeys to school on two wheels than any other local school, and their efforts took them to fourth place overall in Wales.

"The other Active Journeys primary schools that have earned the Silver award so far are Brackla, Brynmyn, Llangwylid and Nantymoel, and their success is causing a bit of a 'chain reaction' with many other schools reporting impressive statistics over the last year.

"For example, Litchard Primary School has reported a huge surge in participation. The numbers of pupils who cycle to school at least one day a week has risen from seven per cent up to 41 per cent, scooting is up from eight per cent to 43 per cent. Car use has dropped as a result, with the number of pupils who are driven to school falling from 60 per cent to 49 per cent.

"As we approach the winter months, you might expect fewer pupils to ride their bikes or scoot to school, but as there is so much enthusiasm I'm sure that the bike racks and scooter racks will continue to be as full as ever!"

PORHCRAWL FARMERS' MARKET

THE monthly Porthcawl Farmers' Market will take place this Saturday, October 24 at Awel y Mor Community Hall in Porthcawl (behind the fire station); from 9.30am – 12.30pm; parking is available.

PHARMACY DISPENSES CHEQUES



Sali Mali helping to spread greetings on Shwmae Su'mae Day

MENTER Bro Ogwr and Bridgend County Borough Council were among the local organisations and businesses supporting 'Shwmae Su'mae Day' last week, which encouraged people across Wales to make a special effort to speak a little more Welsh and greet everyone with either a 'Shwmae' or 'Su'mae'.

To help spread the word locally, Menter Bro Ogwr took the iconic Welsh character Sali Mali across the county borough with her travels including a visit to Porthcawl, the Sainsbury's store at Sarn, and Bridgend town centre.

Visitors to BCBC's Civic Offices were given an extra warm Welsh welcome – while several local schools looked to raise awareness by hosting a range of



Iconic Welsh TV superstar Sali Mali was out and about in Bridgend county borough promoting 'Shwmae Su'mae Day'.

bilingual activities.

Among the schools participating was Cynffig Comprehensive School, where pupils enjoyed taking part in a brewcawst bingo, a Welsh quiz, special lunchtime activities and also posted their 'Brawddegau Bendigedig' (Brilliant Sentences) on a graffiti wall before their day

culminated with a twmpath in the main hall.

Amanda Jaine Evans, chief language officer at Menter Bro Ogwr, said: "We'd like to thank everyone who got involved by celebrating Wales and the Welsh language on 'Shwmae Su'mae Day'.

"Sali Mali enjoyed meeting so many people out and about and you can see a selection of photos from the day on our social media pages.

"There are lots of people we'd like to thank, including Aberkenfig Squadron, Tyfu gyda'r Gymraeg – Penybont, Bridgend County Borough Council, Bridgend Libraries, Cafe Mimis, BAVO, Cylch Meithrin Plant Bach Sarn, Noddfa Community Project, and Sioip Siarad Penybont.

"Everyone who shared a photo of them celebrating 'Shwmae Su'mae Day' on either our Twitter or Facebook page is in with a chance of winning a voucher for Sioip Hen Y Bont, and we'll be announcing the winner next week."

Find out more at www.shwmae.cymru.

THE Firefighters' Charity and Porthcawl Museum each received a cheque for £500 from Well Pharmacy, Lias Riad, Porthcawl.

Both charities were recognised for their work in the local community.

Jeff Tombes, the firefighter's representative and Mr Paul Joseph, chair of Porthcawl Museum, were presented with their donations by Mr Sam Ghafar, regional manager of Well Pharmacy, who having acquired the Co-op Pharmacy group, now operate all over Wales, Porthcawl's branch being the latest to open.

Porthcawl Museum

had previously supplied the new owners with the history of the building. Originally built as a residence before the First World War, the building became the 'XL' Clothing Store in the early 1920s.

It has since been a milliners and a haberdashery, more commonly known as 'Thomas and Moore.'

It then passed through various other owners, who maintained the traditional fayre, before emerging as a chemist's shop in the late 90s; owner John Wall, who sold it to the Co-op.

Employee Natasha Evans, who had been entrusted with arranging the official opening, handed over the cutting of the ribbon to Mr Owen Money.

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Soroptimists' insight into battle against slavery

BRIDGEND Soroptimist Club held a very well attended anti-slavery awareness event on October 17 at the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend.

First Minister Carwyn Jones AM was present at the seminar and spoke of his, and indeed the Welsh Government's concerns, regarding the problems surrounding this situation and his gratitude to Soroptimists for their involvement in raising awareness of modern day slavery.

Speakers included Stephen Chapman, anti-slavery co-ordinator at the Welsh Government, and has been working closely with Det Supt Paul Griffiths, senior investigating officer, who spoke on 'investigating slavery' a brief insight into Operation Imperial,

which he has been overseeing for some years.

While progress can be frustratingly lengthy, results can now be seen to be coming to fruition.

Nici Evans, from the Cardiff Partnership Board, gave an excellent presentation on 'Human Exploitation - Surely Not in Wales?' which included a thought provoking video made in Merthyr Tydfil, clarifying methods of how young girls are groomed and unwittingly find themselves part of the sinister world of modern day slavery.

Coffee, tea and Welsh cakes were served and some beautifully crafted goods were on sale, together with a Tombola stall; all proceeds were raised for Barnardo's.



PICTURED (left to right): Deputy Mayor BCBC Roy Jenkins, Town Mayor David White, Det Supt Paul Griffiths, First Minister Carwyn Jones, Nici Evans, Stephen Chapman and SI Bridgend president Bethan Healey.

DOUBLE CAUSE TO CELEBRATE AT COITY

PRESIDENT Lyn Griffiths opened a very well-attended October meeting of Coity WI with a report on the activities of the last month.

The centenary celebration meal at The Atlantic, Porthcawl, Link meeting at Pencoed with afternoon tea and a ukelele band, and the very interesting craft class demonstration of fused glass, given by Sue Rossetti, were just a few of the events enjoyed.

We also learned that Coity WI has won the recruitment award for a

WI with over 30 members. We have been very pleased to welcome so many new faces over the last year, and delighted to hear that the award is for a bursary of £200, which will enable more of our members to make a visit to Denman College.

The speaker for the evening was our own, multi-talented Anne Haddrill, who gave us a timely demonstration on Christmas cake decorating, particularly suited to those who have not yet acquired the necessary skills for elaborate piping.

Using a basic fondant icing, we were shown how to make a variety of

decorations. It was a fun, hands-on demonstration, packing in lots of useful tips and producing some delightful results.

Hand-made Christmas roses and a well-chosen ribbon looked elegant, while snowmen in hats would surely entertain the little ones!

This was a demonstration full of original ideas, and while Anne made it look easy, she also convinced us all that it actually was easy, and left us wanting to try her ideas for ourselves.

The next meeting will be on November 19, when the speaker will be Mr Ian Roach at Gilead Church Hall, 7pm.

Armistice Remembrance service date

THE Remembrance Service this year will be held on Sunday morning, November 8 at 10.30am in All Saints' Church, Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl, and we cordially invite the public to join us on this occasion.

All townspeople, religious denominations and other organisations are invited to attend the Armistice Service, and we especially invite those organisations who have a standard or flag to take part in the

service. There will be a parade commencing at 9.45am. Please form up on the piazza adjacent to the lifeboat station by 9.30am. Wreaths will be made available for those who wish to parade with them. The salute will be taken at the bandstand, John Street.

Please note that refreshments will be served in the church hall following the Laying of Wreaths.

There will be two minutes' silence, with the Exhortation and Last Post, at 11am at the bandstand, John Street, Porthcawl on Wednesday, November 11. Participants are asked to assemble at 10.45am. All are welcome to attend.

Should you have any queries contact Ray Street on 01656 771214. **Allan Lloyd, Chairman Porthcawl branch, Royal British Legion.** Coun David Newton-Williams, Mayor of Porthcawl.

Bridgend Male Voice Choir round-up



SUCCESSFUL choir dates - with the charity, Shine Cymru benefiting from Phil Steele's Rugby World Cup at Cardiff; a visit to the Tigers' Fan Zone at Leicester's Welford Road HQ and, more locally, on October 16 at Bridgend Athletic RFC Clubhouse when they hosted Tokyo team, Superman RFC, will lead Bridgend male choristers into more traditional activities.

A recent visit to Tabernacle Welsh Congregational Church for its annual concert was considered a huge success, the variety enhanced by Eisteddfod-winning soprano, Ellen Williams and choir music team members Scott Williams (organ solo) and Rhianon

Williams-Hale and Ryan Wood (piano duet).

Bridgend Male Choir is currently recording its latest CD to be released in time for Christmas. See the choir website for details at www.bridgendmalechoir.co.uk.

The choir will be out in force for the town's Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph on November 8 and for a visit to Pembroke Comprehensive School on the 13th in a concert for Pembroke Lions, which will also feature the school choir.

The Friendship concert is at St Mary's Catholic Church, Bridgend on December 4, also featuring St Mary's Catholic school choir. BMC will include songs from the CD and appropriate Christmas items. Tickets available from the church.

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Who wants to build what and where in the borough?

Mr M Kincaid - 9 Y Lan, Pencoed - Works to trees including crown lifting, crown thinning and removing branches. Mrs E Smith - Auden House, 37 Newton Nottage Road, Porthcawl - Fell conifers at rear of property (within Newton conservation area). Mr E P Williams - Tynywydd Farm House, Spion Kop, Ognore - Crown reduce one tree and remove two trees. Eco Green Gardens - 6 Clevis Hill, Newton, Porthcawl - Reduce height and width of bay trees and holly by 2-3 metres. Ms Joanne Carmody - 13 Chantal Avenue, Pen-y-Fai - Extend existing dormer to create bedroom on first floor. Mr Tyrone Vickery - 16 Beech Grove, Newton - Extension to front and loft conversion with rear dormer (amendment to approval P/12/722/FUL). Mr K Haines - Garage site, NE Pembroke Terrace, Nantymoel - One dwelling (outline application with all matters reserved). Mr Paul Dix - Plot next to 224 Heol Glannant, Bettws - Outline application for a two-storey 3-4 bedroom dwelling. Mr S Walker - 8 Ffordd yr Eglwys, North Cornelly - Vertical lift and ramped access to property from public footpath. Mr Kim Hughes - Ocean Farm, east of David Street, Blaengarw - Change of use from stables to dog kennels for commercial dog breeding. Mr Dean Ronan - Myrtle Grove, South Parade, Maesteg - Inclusion of land into curtilage, demolish lean-to and construct new two storey extension. Mr Neil Sullivan - 65 Marlas Road, Pyle - Drop kerb in front of property to provide access to new driveway. Triangle 3 - Next to Unit 6/7, Waterton Retail Park, Waterton - Extension to existing retail units to provide additional class A1 retail floorspace (two new units). Mr C S Davies - 54 Long Acre Drive, Nottage - Two storey rear extension, dormer extension, side storm porch and rear balcony. Mr J Frogley - 100 Heol Fach, North Cornelly - Summerhouse to rear garden. Sisters of Poor Clare - St Clares Convent, Clevis Lane, Porthcawl - Demolition of buildings on the site including convent building, prayer centre and Clevis Cottages and remove part of wall. Mr and Mrs Pinkham - Anchorage, Bryneglwys Avenue, Porthcawl - Replace dormer extensions with three roof extensions, demolish garage and replace with larger double garage. A B M University Health Board - Princess of Wales Hospital, Coity Road, Bridgend - New glazed corridor link within an external courtyard. Mrs Suzanne Churchill - Tal y Fan Farm, Blackmill - Erection of a barn to house poultry and alpaca. Mrs Deborah Smith - Caerau Clinic, Duffryn Road, Caerau - Change of use of whole Caerau clinic to social center including meetings, bingo, serving alcohol and entertainment. Mr W Jones - 1 Warwick Crescent, Porthcawl - Single storey extension to front of existing bungalow. Anchormill Ltd - Plot 48, Phase 4, Duffryn oaks, Hendre Road, Pencoed - Non material amendment to P/09/419/RES, amend size and position of windows and doors and position of stone cladding. Ms Belinda Jones - 1 Tre Newydd, Kenfig Hill - Double garage to side with bedroom and office above. Mr and Mrs Alun Williams - 48 Beach Road, Newton - Conversion of ground floor dressing room to garage with rear first floor extension.

Friends pass on their 'handbags and their gladrags' at Linda's charity sale

RIGHT:

Just a few of the friends who turned out to support Linda White's charity event. Pictured are (left to right): Gill Gore, Kathryn Williams, Linda White, Vanessa Jones, Gill Walters, Christine Cobbledick and Dot Walters.

A PORTHCAWL church hall was filled to capacity recently, as friends gathered for an evening devoted to 'recycling' their shoes, handbags and scarves.

There was, however, a serious side to the ladies' night. The aim was to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND), and it was organised by Linda White, who was diagnosed with the condition in July.

Linda, who lives in Nottage, said: "The theme of the evening was 'shoes, bags and scarves' with people donating their unwanted quality items and then purchasing

by PHILIP IRWIN

some great new buys on the night, all whilst enjoying a glass of wine or two!

"The event was inspired by the fact that, because of the MND, I have found that I can no longer wear my heels.

"The event was a great success, raising £790 for the MND Association."

The MND Association aims to improve care and support for people with Motor Neurone Disease, their families and carers.

The association also funds and promotes research that leads to new understanding and treatments, to and brings us closer to a cure

for MND. The MND Association also campaigns to raise awareness so the needs of people with MND, and everyone who cares for them, are recognised and addressed by wider society.

Linda said: "I wish to thank family, friends, former colleagues, and friends of friends, who made the evening such a success, and a big thank you to all of the local businesses who donated fantastic raffle prizes for the night!"

"The unsold goods were later donated to charities in the town."

To find out more about MND or to find out how you can help this worthwhile cause please visit www.mndassociation.org



Park Slip Margam opencast site: 'RESTORATION' IS LIMITED

NEATH Port Talbot CBC has taken the decision to limit any 'restoration' of the Park Slip Margam opencast coal site to the £5.7 million in the escrow fund held as security by the councils.

The cross-boundary site – where two roads and several footpaths have been cut off for up to 21 years, where the last void excavated is flooded to depths of 90m, where the rest of the 1.4 mile long site is covered in tips ranging from 120m above sea level to the bottom of the trough at 50m below sea level – will have restoration limited to a drain.

It is being inserted into the void to stop the water from overflowing, along with hydro-seeding, some planting and one north south footpath.

Bridgend CBC claims that slipshod execution of planning procedures prevent it from enforcing restoration and is incapable of doing much more than agreeing with the NPTCBC decision.

Neither council is now intending to serve an enforcement notice requiring the full, promised restoration of the site on Celtic Energy Ltd, which still has the bulk of the restoration liabilities.

Instead, it and its subsidiary, Oak/Beech, are advised to submit new plans for alternative restoration, as described above.

If strict time limits are not adhered to, the site is expected to revert to the serving of an enforcement order on Beech, which the planners expect to result in the council going on site to undertake the work to the limited fund.

The cost of full restoration is thought to be in the order of £50 million.

PACT and Pyle Community Council have both made formal requests to the Welsh Government to take on the enforcement procedures and await a decision from that quarter.

Jan Adamson, on behalf of PACT (Protecting and Conserving Together).

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THE GIRLS PROVE THAT RUGBY IS NOT JUST A YOUNG MAN'S GAME!



Maesteg Comprehensive year-9 girls enjoy the tag rugby tournament organised by the council's active young people department.

INSPIRED by the efforts of Wales' Rugby World Cup heroes, girls from four comprehensive schools across Bridgend county borough have recently taken part in a tag rugby tournament, with the sport appearing to be growing in popularity amongst local young girls.

Year-9 girls from Pencoed, Bryntirion, Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen and Maesteg Comprehensive schools played out a number of small games during the tournament at Pencoed Comprehensive, which was set up to give girls a chance to

have a go at the sport and have fun at the same time.

As part of BCBC's Girls Network campaign, which encourages women and girls to be more healthy and active, various sports and activities have been trialled in participating schools.

As well as tag rugby, the programme has promoted modern sports such as zumba and girls to be more healthy and active, various sports and activities have been trialled in participating schools.

Cabinet member for adult social Care, health and wellbeing, Coun Phil White, said: "Our Sport, Play and Active

Wellbeing service has been working with participating schools to establish girl's engagement groups which act as a voice for young girls in the county borough. By consulting with the girls themselves we have been able to get a better understanding of the barriers that were preventing them from being more active, and have set about combatting these by offering more appealing activities and environments.

"It's reassuring to see that more young girls are trying tag rugby and other sports, and acting as role models to others."

The tag rugby event was supported by the schools, WRU, Ospreys and local ladies' rugby team Pencoed Phoenix.



The photograph by Jac shows Maj (ret) D Davies BEM TD (left), branch president, and Mr G Durk, chairman, in front of the old RRW standard.

Old standard is hung with pride at council offices

ON June 11, 1969, the Royal Regiment of Wales (24/41st. Foot) came into being by the amalgamation of the South Wales Borderers (24th Regiment) and The Welch Regiment (41st/69th Regiment).

On that day in the grounds of Cardiff castle, Prince Charles presented new colours in a moving ceremony.

St David's Day 2006 saw the amalgamation of the Royal Regiment of Wales with the Royal Welch Fusiliers to form a new Regiment, the Royal Welsh.

On June 11, 2015, at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, the Royal Welsh was presented with new colours by the Queen.

Royal Welsh Comrades Association (RRW) Bridgend branch was presented with the new standard which will be on parade in Bridgend at future events.

In order to purchase the new standard, an appeal for funds was launched to all the town councils, community councils and charities. We are indebted to all who contributed and we cannot thank them enough.

On October 9, now that the old RRW standard was no longer needed for parades, a ceremony was held in Bridgend Town Council offices, when it was presented to the Bridgend Town Council. It has been mounted in an oak framed display case and now hangs on the wall of the council chamber for all to see.

Unveiling of the old standard was performed by the Mayor, Coun David White. Representatives from local community councils and charities were also present.

The Royal Welsh Comrades Association (RRW) Bridgend branch is a very active organisation of veterans from all parts of the Borough. Last year, visits were made to Ypres, site of the battle of Gheluvelt and Pilckem Ridge; and to the Somme to visit Mametz Wood, sites of World War One battles in which our antecedent regiments played a part.

The branch holds regular monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month at the United Servicemen's Club, Tondur Road, Bridgend, 7.30pm. If you are an ex-serviceman looking for comradeship, a chat, a yarn, a pint and a lot more, you are welcome to join us. All Cap badges welcomed.

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A warm welcome to Ysgol Llanhari!



IT was a pleasure to welcome so many year-6 pupils and parents to the open evening at Ysgol Llanhari on October 14.

It was an excellent opportunity to view the school, meet with the current pupils and staff and enjoy a variety of activities ranging from French conversational lessons to science experiments and an open rehearsal for our show Back to the Eighties.

We look forward to

welcoming the pupils back before half term for their first transition day of the academic year.

Croeso cynnes i Ysgol Llanhari!

PLESER fu croesawu cymaint o ddisgyblion blwyddyn 6 a'u rhieni i Noson Agored yr Ysgol ar y 14eg o Hydref. Roedd yn gyfle ardderchog i

ymgyfarwyddo â'r ysgol, cwrdd â staff a disgyblion a mwynhau ystod eang o weithgareddau yn amrywio o wersi Ffrangeg, i arbrofion Gwyddoniaeth a gwylio ymarfer ein sioe gerdd am eleni Nol i'r 80au.

Edrychwn ymlaen yn fawr at gyfarfod â disgyblion blwyddyn 6 eto cyn hanner tymor pan fyddan nhw yn ymweld â ni ar gyfer eu diwrnod trosglwyddo i cyntaf.

'COWBRIDGE ON RUN' PROVES A GREAT FUNDRAISER FOR CANCER RESEARCH

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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ENTHUSIASTIC runners took part in Cowbridge on the Run recently, in support of Cancer Research UK (Wales).

The organiser, Anne Birt, said: "There was an amazing response from local people and a really great community feel!"

"Both walkers and runners embraced the spirit of the event and – with luck – we have raised lots of much needed funds for Cancer Research UK (Wales)."

The results were as follows:

Men's 5k. 1st. Andrew Martin
2nd Luke England
3rd Jack Faringdon

Men's 10k. 1st James Nunn
2nd Jason Kiely
3rd Craig Burrows

Women's 5k
1st Angharad Mair
2nd Alys Coe

Women's 10k
1st Sarah Fry
2nd Mary Beech

A special mention must be made of Freya Marshall from Ystradowen who at the tender age of eight, completed the 10k, putting many adults present to shame!

Anne added: "The event will be held in September next year and, although not as yet confirmed, it will most probably be the first Sunday of the month!"

"A huge thank you to everyone involved!"



Keeping fit and
supporting Cancer
Research UK (Wales)!



Anguish for man unable to get vital medication

by GEM REPORTER

A Barry man has told of his despair after he was unable to get vital medication from his local surgery to control severe depression.

The man, who is in his 30s, said he had made an arrangement to pick up an 'urgent' prescription, only to be told he couldn't because of the 48 hour turnaround policy.

He said he wanted to highlight the problem he had faced so that other people didn't suffer in the same way.

The man said: "I suffer severe depression with suicidal tendencies and have made three attempts on my life to date having suffered for 15 years."

"On Tuesday, October 6, I noticed I had run out of one particular medication and called my surgery, West Quay Medical Centre, and explained the situation."

The staff recommended that he put in a repeat prescription which involved a 48 hour turnaround and advised him that he should get to the surgery before midday.

But the man needed the medication urgently, rather than having to wait the 48 hours, and explained that to staff.

He said: "I've only recently been able to return to work so was unable to get there for midday. The receptionist appeared to understand and told me she would notify the other receptionists who were working that I would be in after work at around 4pm at which time they could print off a script, but I would have to wait until a doctor signed it."

"That wasn't a problem. It was my fault, I ran out and I didn't mind a wait."

"I arrived at the surgery just after 4pm and queued patiently to speak to a receptionist at which point it all went horribly wrong."

"All knowledge of any phone conversation was denied and they were back to sticking to their guns of a 48 hour turnaround policy."

"Once again, I explained the severity of the situation and the effects of not taking a drug your body has become accustomed to, but it fell on deaf, insensitive ears."

"I explained how I fear for my

own safety and the receptionist told me not to use threatening behaviour."

"I continued to plead for medication so the lady went to speak to the practice manager."

"He didn't see fit to come and speak to me directly and just sent back a message reaffirming the 48 hour policy. Unfortunately my illness has no regard for policy."

"At this time I had to leave as it was all getting too much for me. I called my wife and explained what had happened. I needed to hear her voice because I was so upset. My wife said she'd call the doctors and request to speak to the practice manager."

"No call was returned that day and a further attempt was made and once again the promised call back never materialised."

The man finally received his medication on Friday, October 9.

The man went on: "It was very distressing and also hard on my wife."

"In this day and age, the awareness of mental health is so prevalent that I am astounded at the uncaring nature shown to me by the people who are supposed to be there to help me."

Christopher Williams, the practice manager, said: "The practice widely publicises to all patients the need to ensure they request repeat medication in good time to ensure they do not run short."

"For patients who have previously requested a prescription at short notice, we remind them of the need to allow 48 hours between request and the prescription becoming available."

"An emergency supply can be provided by a community pharmacy if there is an immediate need for the prescription-only medication and it is not practical for the patient to obtain a prescription."

"Where there is a clear clinical need to produce prescriptions urgently, the practice will do so. At no time will the health or well-being of any patient be jeopardised by the practice because the patient has forgotten to request a repeat prescription."

Recognise great deeds...

I AM writing to ask readers of the Glamorgan GEM to join me in nominating people they think should be recognised with a national St David Award.

The St David Awards, now in their third year, were established to recognise the great deeds and contributions made by people from all walks of life in Wales.

Day in, day out, groups of people and individuals are going the extra mile to make a difference to someone else's life, overcoming adversity and achieving truly inspirational things.

I'm asking your readers to nominate these fantastic people, teams or groups who are going that extra mile to benefit others and the country in general.

There are nine categories: Bravery; Citizenship; Culture; Enterprise; Innovation and Technology; Sport; Young Person; International and my Special Award, which I choose.

We're fast approaching the closure of nominations for this year's awards. Don't leave it until the last minute to nominate, it would be a shame if the people you think are truly worthy of an award miss out on the recognition they deserve.

Get involved and let someone know you appreciate them and what they've achieved. Nominating is easy, just go to www.stdavidawards.org.uk and put someone forward before midnight on October 27.

Carwyn Jones,
First Minister of Wales.



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'Report hate crime' – CALL



A CAMPAIGN to encourage the reporting of hate crime has been launched across Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan.

South Wales Police's engagement team embarked on a brief whistle-stop tour of the region during National Hate Crime Awareness Week, which started on October 10.

Officers set up at the Barry Memorial Hall, and the following day held an event at the Hi-Tide on Porthcawl's seafront.

The aim, through presentations, role play, and video, was to raise

awareness among people with disabilities or those from minority groups about what constitutes a hate crime.

Delegates were also urged to report hate crimes when they happen, to tackle the problem that many hate crimes still go unreported.

PCSO Elizabeth Pope, who organised the events, said: "It is a travesty that hate crimes are still going unreported. Unfortunately hate crimes will continue, but one of the first steps of tackling them is robust enforcement, and for that to happen, victims must have the confidence to report crimes."

PICTURED: The engagement team PC Paul Evans (Hate Crime Officer); PCSO Adam Like, community engagement PCSO Liz Pope; Sergeant Angela Bennett and community engagement PC Richard Paines.

Ty Hafan celebrates Hospice Care Week

CHILDREN and families supported by Tŷ Hafan celebrated Hospice Care Week with lots of activities including balloon-making, a tea party and some Hallowe'en fun!

The annual week of activity raises the profile of hospice care across the UK. The theme, Connecting Care, focused on the special role hospices play in connecting with individuals and families, connecting with local communities and connecting people with each other, it was stated.

To find out how to support Tŷ Hafan children's hospice at Sully, visit www.tyhafan.org.



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BEREAVED SON OFFERS SUPPORT TO YOUNGSTERS THROUGH MARIE CURIE

A STUDENT who received bereavement counselling as a child, has returned to Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth, where his late father died, to support other young people.

Luke Waddon, from Wenvoe, was just 13 when his father, Alun, died at the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice in 2008, following a two-year battle with bowel cancer.

During this difficult period Luke and his younger brother, Henry, were offered bereavement support counselling from trained Marie Curie social workers to help them come to terms with their loss.

Looking back, Luke, now 20, is grateful for the support he received and acknowledges that without that assistance at such a young age, he may have found it difficult to cope with losing his father.

Luke still regularly returns to the Marie Curie Hospice to offer his support and share his experiences with groups of children and young people affected by bereavement.

"I owe a lot to the hospice. It would have been so easy for me to go home and think about it on my own and look for relief and catharsis in alcohol, or drugs – or even just sitting on my own and getting depressed about it and not wanting to go to school, see my friends or do the things that I enjoyed.

"Everyone says that teenage years are horrible in themselves, when you don't know who you are, and you're trying to find your own way in the world – but when you've just been through a bereavement as well, that can knock things off course a bit.

"So anytime that I felt sad or angry, or any of these emotions associated with losing someone, Marie Curie were always there to tell me that it was okay to feel that way and helped me deal with what I was experiencing, because as a young person it is scary."

While he doesn't like the term 'role model', he does hope his story can be a shining light to other young people experiencing something similar to what he has been through.

"When you come to the hospice and you meet

other children and young people who have experienced a similar thing, you see that they're doing okay, and it makes you feel that you can do okay as well.

"That's what I hope to be now for these younger people – to show other people that if young people do lose someone they care about that, they can still go on to be who they want to be and still have a smile on their face until the end of the day.

"I think that everyone at the group can tell that I'm not another adult trying to understand how they feel, I'm another young person who has been through a horrible experience, and I'm trying to tackle each day the best that I can.

"I do think you only know what it's like when you've been through it yourself – when you're able to walk in someone else's shoes and think back to how you were feeling at that time and how they're feeling now. It comes from the heart.

"We always fundraise for Marie Curie because we know how important every penny is, how important every moment is here, and how important every hello is and every arm around the shoulder. So if we can be there giving that arm

around the shoulder to someone else now, whether that be literally in the group, or through putting a pound in someone's collection tin to help the hospice do it – if we can do that in some way and help someone else – I think it is a good way to give something back."

Andrew Wilson-Mouasher, divisional general manager for Marie Curie in Wales, said: "At Marie Curie, we are committed to providing care and support throughout a person's terminal illness.

"This also extends to their family and loved ones. Bereavement support is an important part of this, and we are encouraged that Luke has benefited from the support he has received and is able to support our work going forward."

If you have questions about terminal illness, or simply want someone to talk to, call the Marie Curie Support Line on 0800 090 2309 for free confidential support and practical information on all aspects of terminal illness.

To find out more about Marie Curie services visit: <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/about>.

Search and Rescue helicopter service is launched at St Athan

RIGHT: Richard Parkes, Captain Oly Padbury, chief pilot, and Samantha Willenbacher, Director of UK Search and Rescue at Bristow Helicopters Ltd.



THE launch of the St Athan civilian UK search and rescue (SAR) helicopter service was marked on October 15 in a ceremony held at the new SAR base on St Athan airfield.

Bristow Helicopters Ltd is operating the search and rescue helicopter service for the UK on behalf of HM Coastguard.

The company was awarded the ten-year UK SAR contract by the Department for Transport in March 2013. By 2017, it will deliver the service from ten bases strategically located close to areas of high SAR incident rates.

The St Athan base went live on October 4 and has already responded to calls from the Aeronautical Rescue Centre (ARCC).

Bristow crews are delivering the UK SAR

helicopter service on behalf of HM Coastguard with state-of-the-art helicopters, equipped with the latest search and rescue technology including night vision, mission management and increased onboard medical capabilities.

The base was officially opened by Richard Parkes, Director of Maritime Operations at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

Mr Parkes said: "HM Coastguard has been providing search and rescue helicopter services in northern Scotland and southern England for over 30 years. Today, I am immensely proud to welcome our second Welsh civilian base to the service."



ABOVE: AW139 aircraft outside the new hangar at St Athan.

Autumn colour at Dyffryn

Dyffryn Gardens at St Nicholas in the Vale is ablaze with autumn colour, and "acers are so intense they are shining like jewels in the autumn sunshine this week," head gardener Chris Flynn, reported this week.

"Autumn is such a great time to be outdoors, there are lots of beautiful autumn colours and our collection of acers is in particular glow at this time of year. October is the best time of year to visit to really appreciate the woody collection we have at Dyffryn," he added.

See Dyffryn Gardens' website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryngardens.

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Price is just the beginning...

Aimee's charity horse ride was hard work (for her father, that is!)

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

GEM readers may remember that earlier this year, we reported that two friends from Barry, Aimee Louise Sullivan and Catherine Phipps, were planning a three-day marathon ride for Marie Curie on their horses, Delboy and Lightning.

However, the pair hit problems over the summer, as an injury jinx struck Catherine (and her horse) – but Aimee hung in there and she and Delboy recently completed the ride!

Aimee told The GEM: "It was originally planned for June but Catherine's horse got a nail from the roads stuck in his foot so the ride was postponed to late September.

"Unfortunately, luck was not on Cat's side because she fractured her ribs a few weeks before when helping with someone else's horse.

"I didn't want to postpone until next year, so my dad Cavan Sullivan (Welsh Window Systems) said he would accompany me on his push bike along the journey.

The first day was the longest in terms of distance, from Margam Park to Ystradfellte (37 miles) – but it turned out to be a very long day indeed!

Aimee explained: "First, we found footpaths closed for forestry works. This forced us to take a longer route.

"We continued until

our next dilemma an hour or so later...we were stuck right in the middle of a wind turbine construction site!

"The only way to continue out was over a cattle grid or kissing gate, neither of which a horse can pass through.

"However, luck was on our side and the construction workers were fantastic...they were all trying to find a way through/around for the horse.

They spent over an hour radioing colleagues on other sites and driving round trying to find a piece of plywood for the horse to walk over the cattle grid.

"This failed but they managed to dismantle the kissing gate instead for the horse to pass through. Fantastic work by them!

"Our problem then was losing the time meant losing daylight hours so we needed to get onto roads to continue as much of the route as possible on road, where there are streetlights as opposed to the forestry tracks.

"We eventually arrived at our stop about 8pm at night."

If Aimee thought that it would be simpler on the second day (30 miles across the Brecon Beacons to Lower Chapel) she was wrong.

This time, it was mechanical trouble. Her dad Cavan had sensibly brought six puncture repairs with him, but he hadn't bargained on the fact that hedge trimming had recently been done, and thorns in the road meant that he had soon used up all six patches!



ABOVE: Aimee and Delboy with the construction workers who helped her get past a cattle grid.

The time spent repairing meant that almost two hours were lost, and then just to make life more difficult, he had two more punctures and was forced to push the bike for the rest of the day.

If Cavan thought he was off for a gentle three-day ride in the country, he was mistaken!

Day three, just 15 miles from Lower Chapel to Builth Wells, was simpler.

Cavan's wife Debbie brought more inner tubes and puncture repair kits – and as Murphy's Law dictates, he didn't need any.

Aimee said: "A friend (Charlotte Powell) gave up her day to bring my car and empty trailer



ABOVE: Aimee and her dad, Cavan.

(along with my mum) to the finish point to meet us"; while Charlotte said "I know Delboy absolutely thrives on his work but I cannot believe how much energy he has after completing over 80 miles, he's unreal!"

"Delboy is a 16-year-old American Standardbred ex-harness racer and I've owned him for three years.

"Mine and Catherine's target to raise for Marie Curie was originally £1,000 but the current total is £1,665. I am hoping to get to the £2,000 mark and stop pestering people...until a new event next year.

"The money has been raised between myself and Catherine."

Link for the just giving page is: <https://www.justgiving.com/m/Aimeeandcat/> or by text: 'HOOF75', followed by: '£1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10' to: '70070'.

White Gecko Craft Lounge to open!

OPENING in Dinas Powys on Friday, October 30, the White Gecko Craft Lounge will provide people's craft, coffee and cake needs!

The shop will be stocking a range of craft items including paper crafts, beading, wool, fabric plus much more.

Craft workshops and courses will also take place. A spokeswoman said: "On opening day, the shop will be running drop-in craft activities so children can make a trick or treat Hallowe'en bag between 10am to 4pm and parents can enjoy some refreshments while they wait for their little ones!

"Visit us at 13 Camms Corner, call 029 2115 2628 or find the shop page on Facebook."

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Action-packed autumn for the local Scouts...

FOLLOWING the summer break, 1st Penmark with Porthkerry scout group is back with an action-filled agenda.

Already the Scouts have completed their kayaking course and are now just awaiting the final assessment. They have worked hard all summer at Coed Hills woodland clearing foliage, building shelters and fires.

Also on the weekend of the September 26-27, they managed the car park at Amelia Trust Farm's Harvest Festival as part of the Million Hands project which is about providing support to raise awareness for national and local good causes.

This was followed by a night camping there. It was a long day but the sun was shining, the farm was busy and everyone had a great time.

Cubs are celebrating their 100 years and have been to Cardiff Airport's fire station, have walked the path from Brendon View Close and logged the condition of it as part of community week and they have played human hungry hippos.

Beavers have been learning about the dentist and how to care for your teeth. They have also been looking at different communication techniques including the phonetic alphabet and semaphore and have been playing wooden Vikings and making biscuits. All sections also enjoyed a 'bouncy' night at Infinity Trampoline.

The Explorer leaders have been presented with their Queen's Scout Awards by the Deputy

Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan – well done to them!

There are lots more activities planned for the sections over the next few weeks, as well as a family prize bingo night for all to enjoy on November 14 at the Rhosce Social Club.

This will be a fundraising event for 1st Penmark with Porthkerry and if anyone would like to provide any prizes for adults or children, either personal donations or corporate, well as within the sections, from Please contact penmarkwithporthkerry@scouts@gmail.com

Tickets for this event will be on sale shortly and the evening will include a light supper.

1st Penmark with Porthkerry would also like to give you advance notice of the Scout Christmas post. This is one of their largest fundraising events and they look forward to receiving your support.

Stamps will be on sale in outlets throughout Rhosce and the surrounding villages in due course and the group would be grateful if you would purchase your stamps from these outlets, that way the profits go to 1st Penmark with Porthkerry.

The group will be

sorting the post on December 7-10 and it can be delivered throughout Cardiff and the Vale.

Finally, 1st Penmark with Porthkerry is a hugely successful scout group who work very hard in providing an exciting and varied programme of activities that the children can enjoy and learn from. If you would like to be part of this group they would love to hear from you.

There are roles on the executive committee as well as within the sections, from occasional helpers to section leaders.

The Scout section in particular is looking for uniformed leaders. If you feel you have a few hours to spare each week please get in touch. You can do as much or as little as you wish and will be fully supported throughout.

All section roles are subject to a DBS check. If you want more information please speak to any of the leaders or contact the Group Scout Leader on penmarkwithporthkerry@scouts@gmail.com

Also don't forget the work day on October 18 at the Scout hut. Any help would be gratefully received.

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THE FRIENDS OF BARRY BEACHES CELEBRATE THEIR FIFTH BIRTHDAY



FRIENDS of Barry Beaches will be holding their next beach clean at Whitmore Bay (Barry Island) on Sunday, October 25, outside Marco's cafe at 3pm.

"If you like visiting clean and tidy beaches, then why not spend an hour of your time volunteering to keep it that way?" the group urges.

The September litter pick volunteers celebrated the group's fifth birthday with cake and hot drinks, and the AGM saw Rob Curtis re-elected as its chairman/co-ordinator, Verity Allely as secretary, and Claire Curtis as treasurer.

All litter picking equipment will be supplied, but wear sturdy shoes or boots and dress for weather conditions on the day.

For further information, see www.fobb.btk.co.uk or follow the group on facebook.

Group gets Pumphouse tour

FOCUSBARRY recently met at the Pumphouse, Barry Waterfront, where the developer briefed members, supporters and friends about the mixed use development.

Mr Simon Baston introduced himself and explained his reasons and vision for the scheme.

The ground floor will have a gym, coffee shop/restaurant, and above that are 15 live/work units, where small businesses will be run or they will be let for

residential purposes – all 15 are in private ownership.

Mr Baston showed part of the original crane, which has been relocated to the entrance ceiling and explained the difficulties this entailed.

He has sympathetically restored this building and all the apartments have an open plan layout and are equipped for modern day living.

The bedrooms have been created on a mezzanine level, overlooking the lounge area.

The style of the building is that of a New York loft apartment, where metal beams have been used as skirting boards and also in

the roof trusses.

All of the apartments have solid wood flooring and planks were sourced from an old cinema in the north of England.

Each flat has been named after a ship, reflecting Barry Docks history as the largest coal exporter in the world.

The ground floor is nearing completion and it will contain gym equipment in the next couple of weeks.

The group were shown around the restaurant area, where work is still progressing.

Dennis Harkus,
Chair, FocusBARRY

First Welsh run is all set to Glow!

RNIB Cymru (Royal National Institute of Blind People) is counting down to its first Welsh Glow Neon 3k Fun Run at the International Sports Stadium this Saturday, October 24.

Taking place after dark, the run is inspired by the colourful full moon parties of Thailand. Participants can run, walk or even dance their way around the track under the UV lights while being sprayed with luminous colourful paint.

All money raised from RNIB Glow will help RNIB provide practical and emotional support to everyone affected by sight loss.

Made in Cardiff TV's Mariclare Carey-Jones will open the event at 7pm.

RNIB Cymru's fundraising manager, Carol McKinlay said: "We're so excited about hosting an RNIB Glow run at Cardiff International Sports Stadium this year – the first in Wales. It's such a fun and colourful event and for a great cause."

"The run is 3k long so is suitable for most people. It is an excellent starting point for people



who want to get fit – and of course for people looking for a fun start to the weekend."

RNIB Glow is open to anyone over the age of 10 and is fully accessible to blind and partially sighted participants. Guide runners are available to support any blind or partially sighted

people.

It costs £10 to register, and all participants are asked to raise a minimum of £25 sponsorship (£15 for students, £10 for children). Visit www.rnib.org.uk/glow to find out more and register.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is steamed up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, BCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Heartbroken mum Lucy on the catwalk to support Ty Hafan children's hospice



Ezra with big sister Bailey.

WHEN parents Lee and Lucy took eight-week-old Ezra to the doctors with a chest infection, they never thought that two weeks later they would be saying goodbye to their precious son.

Ezra was born on January 12, 2015 without any complications and appeared to be a healthy baby boy. Lee Morgan and Lucy Froleigh from Bridgend were delighted to complete their family and give their two-year-

old daughter, Bailey, a beautiful younger brother.

But a few months later, Ezra became poorly so Lucy took him to see their GP. Lucy said: "Ezra fell ill with a chest infection which we didn't think was much to worry about until I took him to the doctors. After two minutes, the doctor gave him oxygen and an ambulance was called."

Ezra was taken to the University Hospital of Wales and was put on a life-support machine. After being diagnosed with SMA Type 1 – a rare genetic muscular disease – he was referred



to Ty Hafan, the hospice for children in Wales at Sully.

"Ty Hafan took care of us as there was no cure for Ezra's condition," said Lucy. Before going, I had no idea about Ty Hafan and what they did. They are a brilliant charity which helps children and families through the hardest times of their lives.

"They supported us with anything, from making us tea, to talking to us and making memories happen. Ezra survived for 24 hours after being taken off the ventilator at Ty Hafan. In those 24 hours, Ty Hafan made so many memories happen for us – hand and foot prints of Ezra and his two-year-

old big sister, and finger prints on little butterflies.

"Before Ezra passed away on March 6 we had the most fabulous and magical family day anyone in our circumstances could dream of, all thanks to Ty Hafan. Nothing was hard work for them and they cooked all our family food. We could have had all our family to stay, too."

As a way to say thank you, Lucy is taking part in a fashion show in aid of Ty Hafan with other mums supported by the charity.

"I am so happy to take part in the Ty Hafan fashion show to raise more money and to make people aware of how hard things can be, and how brilliant Ty Hafan is," said Lucy.

"I want to make sure everyone is aware of what Ty Hafan does instead of finding out like me and my family."

Tickets for the fashion show, taking place at Porthcawl's Hi-Tide Hotel at 6.30pm on November 12, are £7.50 and can be bought from Cerys' Closet in Kenfig Hill, or Ty Hafan's shop in Porthcawl.

For more information on Ty Hafan, visit www.tyhafan.org.

Welsh Tory leader says 'Wear it Pink!'



Andrew RT Davies wears it pink!

THE South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, has donned his "favourite colour pink" in support for women with breast cancer.

Breast Cancer Now's flagship fundraiser 'wear it pink' takes place on Friday, October 23.

The campaign is the UK's biggest pink fundraiser and calls on supporters across the country to ditch the day-to-day colours and pull on some pink to raise money for Breast Cancer Now's life-saving breast cancer research.

Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Mr Davies, said he has also instructed his constituency employees based in Cowbridge to

wear pink: "As ever, this was some good light-hearted fun, with a serious message and it is a privilege to join with others across Wales to support such a fantastic cause," HE SAID.

"Make no bones about it, this disease is a truly awful killer and while significant progress has been made in the battle there is still so much more to do."

"Every year around 2,600 women are diagnosed with breast cancer in Wales and sadly nearly 600 people still lose their lives to the disease."

"This is why it's so important we must continue to raise awareness and fight against this horrid disease."

Cathedral School's 'outstanding' results in first year of A-levels

FOLLOWING the introduction of Sixth Form teaching two years ago, the Cathedral School's first set of A-level results in August was outstanding.

Every student passed every examination and a third of all grades were at the most coveted A* level, two thirds were A* or A.

In all, 85 per cent of grades were top grades of A*-B and students are progressing to the most selective and sought-after universities, including Cambridge, Imperial College

London, Durham and Bristol.

Sixth formers study and socialise in the dynamic, yet relaxed atmosphere of the Sixth Form Centre, which includes a common room, café and fully equipped study area.

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Our professional mentoring programme pairs students with leading figures in the areas of working life they are interested

in, for advice and guidance. We regularly welcome inspirational practitioners as part of our 'Inspire to...' events and students are also able to network at Cardiff Business Club.

Financial support is available for bright pupils at year-12 entry, with scholarships for especially gifted students and means-tested bursaries worth up to 100 per cent of fees.

• For further information, visit www.cathedral-school.co.uk or contact Registrar Mrs Pam Critcher on 029 2083 8504; or registrar@cathedral-school.co.uk.

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F: [cpbridgend](https://www.facebook.com/cpbridgend)



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Shwmae Su'mae Day 2015 celebrations 'great success'

ON Thursday, October 15, the third Shwmae Su'mae Day was held, and once again, Menter Bro Ogwr and many others across the country, were busy encouraging people to greet everyone with 'Shwmae' neu 'Su'mae'.

This year, Menter Bro Ogwr took Sali Mali to Porthcawl, Sainsbury's and Bridgend to greet

people and spread the word about the day. Sali Mali met a number of lovely people on her travels and had some very nice photographs taken with them.

You can see the photographs on Menter Bro Ogwr's Facebook page (@menterbroogwr) and some on our website and on Twitter too.

We also asked you to share your photographs of you celebrating Shwmae Day on our Facebook and Twitter pages for a chance to

win a voucher for Siop yr Hen Bont. The winning photograph will be selected next week.

Menter Bro Ogwr would like to say thank you to the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl for the welcome and for Sali Mali's personal dressing room and to Sainsbury's for the welcome too.

We would also like to thank Aberkenfig Squadron, Tyfu gyda'r Gymraeg - Penybont, Bridgend Libraries, Cafe Mimis, The Bridge, Bridgend College, YellowWales, BAVO, Cylch Meithrin Plant Bach Sarn, Noddfa Community Project, Siop Siarad Penybont and everyone else that have contributed their fabulous photos!

It's been wonderful to see everyone embracing this national day. Menter Bro Ogwr can't wait for the next Shwmae Su'mae Day next year!

Llwyddiant Dathliadau Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae 2015
AR ddydd Iau, Hydref 15fed cynhaliwyd y trydydd Diwrnod Shwmae Sumae, ac unwaith eto buodd Menter Bro Ogwr a nifer o bobl eraill ar draws y wlad yn brysur yn annog pobl i gyfarch pawb gyda 'Shwmae' neu 'Su'mae'.

Eleni, aeth Menter Bro Ogwr â Sali Mali i Borthcawl, Sainsbury's a Phen-y-bont i gyfarch pobl a lleadau'r neges am y diwrnod. Cwrddodd Sali Mali â nifer o bobl hyfryd ar ei theithiau ac fe dynnwyd nifer o luniau neis gyda nhw.

Mae'r lluniau yma nawr i'w gweld ar dudalen Facebook Menter Bro Ogwr (@menterbroogwr) a rhai ar ein gwefan ac ar Twitter hefyd.

Gofynnwn ni hefyd i chi bostio eich lluniau ohonoch chi'n dathlu diwrnod Shwmae ar ein tudalen Facebook a Twitter am gyfle i ennill taleb ar gyfer Siop yr Hen Bont. Bydd y llun buddugol yn cael ei ddewis wythnos nesaf.

Hoffai Menter Bro Ogwr ddiolch yn fawr iawn i Bafiliwn y Grand ym Mhorthcawl am y croeso ac yr ystafell wisgo personol i Sali Mali ac i Sainsbury's hefyd am y croeso.

Diolch hefyd i Sgwadron Abercynffig, Tyfu gyda'r Gymraeg, Pen-y-bont, Llyfrgell Pen-y-bont, Cafe Mimis, The Bridge, Coleg Pen-y-bont, YellowWales, BAVO, Cylch Meithrin Plant Bach Sarn, Prosiect Cymunedol Noddfa, Siop Siarad Pen-y-bont a phawb arall sydd wedi cyfrannu eu lluniau bendigedig!

Mae wedi bod yn hyfryd gweld pawb yn cofleidio'r diwrnod cenedlaethol yma. Mae Menter Bro Ogwr yn methu aros tan ddiwrnod Shwmae Su'mae blwyddyn nesaf! Menter Bro Ogwr: menter@broogwr.org, 01656 732200, www.menterbroogwr.org

FLIGHT THROUGH TIME FOR PENARTH AVIATION SOCIETY

PENARTH Aviation Society recently continued the tradition of visiting sites of interest to aviators.

Following the midsummer visit to Imperial War Museum at Duxford near Cambridge, members made the short trip across the Severn to the Jet Age Museum at Staverton Airport in Gloucester.

The museum houses exhibits showing the history of the Gloster Aircraft Company. From its beginning as a producer of fine quality wood carvings it developed into a manufacturer of aircraft during World War One and it produced many fine aircraft at its Gloucestershire sites.

Gloster was the company selected to produce the prototype jet aircraft for Sir Frank Whittle's jet engine. It was during a ground run at the Brockworth site that the jet briefly left the ground. It can therefore be claimed that the first jet flight took place here, not at RAF Cranwell, where the trials took place.



The Vulcan cockpit at Staverton Airport.

Gloster developed some notable jet aircraft after this start; the Meteor and Javelin the most recognised. The museum's collection includes these aircraft (or replicas) along with cockpit and front fuselage of a Trident airliner (complete with ashtrays for the pilots!) and an Avro Vulcan.

The cramped conditions in this aircraft have to be seen to be believed!

DE

WHAT'S ON news in brief

Drivers needed

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale Good Neighbour Scheme are looking for drivers in the area.

Mileage is paid. Contact 01446 747654 for further information.

Tax advice

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale run free monthly advice sessions on tax affairs at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

The next session will be on Monday, October 26 at 9.30am-11.30am; no appointment needed. Call 01446 732385 for information.

Clairvoyance

TWO special evenings of clairvoyance will be held next week at the Cadoxton Christian

Spiritualist Church, Kenilworth Road.

On Wednesday, October 28 with Sue Moss from Hereford, admission £1.

On Friday, October 30 with Moyà O'Dwyer, admission £7.50.

Doors open 6.30pm, pay at the door. For further information, contact Marjorie on 01446 746670.

Charity night

ON October 29 at 6.30pm, the Tudor Tavern, Llantwit Major, hosts a charity night, featuring bingo with a difference, Tom's head shave, and a dance to finish!

Tickets (£5) include a basket meal and a bingo ticket; contact Matt on 0771 8201044 or available on the door.

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Concert raises £700 for DPVC

ST Peter's Church in Dinas Powys was the venue for an evening of music performed by Cor y Gyrlais from the heart of the Welsh Valleys.

The concert was organised by Huw Parkman, their musical director, of Greenwillows Funeral Care in the village.

The event raised over £700 for Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern (DPVC). John Fanshaw, chairman of DPVC, said: "It was lovely to see the church so full and there was a wonderful atmosphere. A huge thank you to Huw for organising and to Fr Andrew James for offering St Peter's as a venue."

For more information about DPVC and the services it offers, contact 02920 513700. For information about St Peter's, email stpetersdinaspowys@gmail.com.

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Out and About with The GEM

These lucky black cats want to follow you home!



CATS Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre is holding a Black Cat Bonanza at the centre on Saturday, October 24 (10.30am - 3.30pm).

The event has been organised in the lead-up to the annual National Black Cat Day taking place on October 27 to encourage people to 'adopt' an unwanted black or black-white moggy, as well as raising funds to help the centre.

The charity is asking people to use the day to 'paws' for thought and consider the plight of black cats that tend to lose out on homes when owners choose more colourful felines.

Nationally, Cats Protection's 250 volunteer-run branches and 32 centres are currently looking after

between 5,000 and 6,000 cats. Around half of these are black or black and white and, on average, each of these cats waits around three weeks longer than other moggies to be rehomed.

Sue Dobbs, centre manager, said: "The Black Cat Bonanza will be themed around Hallowe'en."

"There will be a lot to see and do, including a creepy cavern, competitions for best dressed black human cat, best cat-themed carved pumpkin as well as raffle, tombola, bric-a-brac, refreshments, and a children's corner."

"Entry is £1 adults, 50p children and three and under free."

To find out more about the Black Cat Bonanza or to adopt a cat or kitten, telephone 01656 724396 or email bridgend@cats.org.uk.

THIS PAN FLIES... BUT IT DOESN'T TRULY SOAR!

GIVEN how prequels have become the current trend in cinemas, we are slowly learning all there is to know about a raft of characters we didn't necessarily need or want to know more about.

The latest to have his early days made into film is that of Peter Pan in Joe Wright's *Pan*.

Peter (played by newcomer Levi Miller) is left at a boy's home by his mother, and grows up hoping that they will one day be reunited. However, one night Peter is taken, along with a number of other boys, by a group of pirates – their destination? Neverland.

The boys have been captured by the nefarious Blackbeard (Hugh Jackman), the deadliest and most feared man in Neverland, who wants them to mine for fairy dust; but when Peter is

deemed to be the 'Pan', the man who will defeat Blackbeard, he escapes Blackbeard's clutches. With the help of James Hook (Garrett Hedlund) and Tiger Lily (Rooney Mara), he aims to stop the pirate from wiping out the fairies that give him his power...

JM Barrie's *Peter Pan* is one of the most enduring stories, and iconic characters, in literary history, which has, understandably, made him ripe for the pickings when it comes to adapting the story for the big screen.

While Hook told us of Peter's life post-Neverland (where the boy who would never grow up did just that), *Pan* takes us behind the curtain to see just how Peter Pan came to be.

As a concept, it certainly feels redundant; after all, the number of films delving into the backstory of characters seems to be ten a penny at the present, and why do we really need to find out the whys and hows of characters – isn't our imagination enough any

more? However, that being said, under the direction of Joe Wright, *Pan* is actually a very entertaining piece of work, vibrant, full of life and energy with enough quirks to make it stand out on its own, even if it sometimes trips up under the weight of its history.

Wright has shown in his previous work that he is a director capable of wowing you visually without losing sight of the story, and he does a great job here. There are several inventive set-pieces (the boys being taken from their beds by the pirates a stand-out), while the bright colour palette gives the film a dreamy, vibrant look that you can't help but enjoy.

There some nice little idiosyncrasies (the boys in the mines singing Nirvana and the Ramones) which give the film a quirky sensibility, and even if his climactic sequence feels ripped from the pages of any number of blockbusters (*Pirates of the Caribbean* most notably), Wright's



by
GARETH JAMIESON
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wonderful direction lends the film an energy that the cast feed upon.

Newcomer Levi Miller could have been an annoyance as Peter, but instead is a charming lead – this Peter lacking the swagger and cocksureness of his future self and is instead weighed down by the sadness of trying to find his mother and deal with this new world,

and Miller does a fine job.

Hugh Jackman's villainous Blackbeard devours the screen with relish but Jackman refrains from going full pantomime, the darkness of the character, and the knowledge his fate is possibly entwined with Peter's, adding a nice degree of depth; while Rooney Mara's Tiger Lily provides some gender balance and makes her a satisfying, if underwritten, character.

The only weak performance comes from Garrett Hedlund as James Hook, the actor's 'performance' consisting of tilting his head to one side and talking in what can only be described as a poor impersonation of Jim Carrey's Grinch.

More wooden than all of the ships in Blackbeard's fleet, Hedlund's presence is an annoyance, so much so that you hope the film deviates from the mythology and sees him eaten whole by the crocodile, only so we

don't have to put up with his atrocious performance!

Screenwriter Jason Fuchs offers some nice ideas and plays on what we know will happen in the future with these characters, but the plot itself is far too muddled and coasts by in large thanks to Wright's visual incoherence.

What could have been a shameless cash-in of a beloved character instead ends up being a more than passable effort – this *Pan* flies, but it doesn't truly soar!

VERDICT:

Dazzlingly colourful and visually ambitious, *Pan* doesn't quite match director Joe Wright's ambition with a story that is a little too complex, but with satisfying performances (Garrett Hedlund aside) and a charm and fizz, it makes for an entertaining experience. Enjoyable.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Hook* (1991), *Oz The Great and Powerful* (2013).

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA...

Poetry residency
POET Rhian Edwards is the artist in residence at Carnegie House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend from October 19 - 24.

The residency includes a film, music and sound installation by Grant Davies, poetry by Rhian Edwards, as well as archive photograph and film footage of the Art Deco cinema, once an iconic symbol in Bridgend.

The residency at Carnegie House will be open from 11am-1pm.

A guided tour of the lost and forgotten cinemas of Bridgend by local historian Natalie Murphy will take place on October 24, leaving Carnegie House at 1pm.

Lib Dem

advice

THE Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding three advice surgeries next week.

This Friday, October 23, he will be in Maesteg Library from 2pm to 3pm, he will then be at Port Talbot Library from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and Townhill Library from 5pm to 6pm. No appointment is necessary.

Lunchtime

music

ALL Saints' Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, will be welcoming young talent from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama for an autumn of free concerts, beginning on October 26 with a programme of medieval music.

Music At Lunchtime, now in its third year, will feature opera, organ, piano – a veritable pot pourri of entertainment! Audiences can enjoy lunch on the mezzanine gallery while they listen, or sit downstairs. Bring your own lunch: teas, coffees and cold drinks provided.

Each concert starts at 1pm and lasts

approximately one hour. The church is completely accessible to disabled people.

Further details can be obtained on 02920 703170 (admin@allsaintspenarth.org.uk).

Cards for

good causes

IT may only be October, but a little bit of Christmas cheer is coming to Cowbridge with the opening of the Cards for Good Causes seasonal shop at Old Hall Community Centre in the High Street.

The charity is once again decking the halls in its Cowbridge shop, offering an array of festive cards and Christmas gift ideas.

Staffed by volunteers, the outlet sells cards for more than 25 national and local charities, including Cancer Research Wales and Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales.

This season's shop manager, Judith Hales, said: "Our seasonal shops are a great way to prepare for Christmas, while at the same time providing an important source of funding for charities."

"In keeping with the Christmas spirit, sending charity Christmas cards allows you to give twice – once to friends and family, and again to worthwhile causes of your choice."

Look out for Good Causes' distinctive triangular red Santa sign on the High Street in Cowbridge.

The shop will be open from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday, from October 26 to December 18.

Glamorgan NFU

meeting

GLAMORGAN NFU Cymru will meet on Wednesday, October 28 at the Grove Golf Club, Cornelly.

The meeting will be addressed by Eleri Price from Crai, near Brecon, who will do a presentation on her

recent study tour of Australia and New Zealand where she explored genetic selection for lamb meat yield and quality.

For further information, email sarah.jones@nfu.org.uk or phone 01982 554200.

Gardening Club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on October 29 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Town Hall.

The speaker will be Eva Krasenska from the Flower Hive, Pencoed, who will talk on 'seasonal decorations' and give demonstrations.

New members welcome.

Organist launches music festival

RENOWNED international concert organist Gordon Stewart will be giving a recital at All Saints' Church, Barry on Saturday, October 31 at 7.30pm.

Music for All Hallows Eve forms part of the music festival at All Saints' Barry to raise funds for the parish.

Gordon was director of the Royal School of Church Music Millennium Youth Choir for three years and a popular musical director for BBC TV's *Songs of Praise*. He is also a regular musical director for BBC Radio 4's *Daily Service*.

For tickets email music@allsaintsbarry.org.uk or contact the box office on 07429 598820.

Spooky times down on the farm!

THINGS are getting spooky at Amelia Trust farm this half term, where children can go on a tour and help to groom a bunny!

There are cake decorating sessions where children can make spooky goodies to take home and they can

also try their hand at worm charming!

On October 30, there is the farm's first ever Creepy Crawly Show, from 11am – 3pm; there will also be the opportunity to do spooky craft activities.

For details, check the website, Facebook or Twitter pages, or email jow@ameliastrust.org.uk.

Hallowe'en dinner/dance

VALEPLUS, the Vale-based charity, will be holding a Hallowe'en dinner/dance on Friday, October 30 in Brynhill Golf Club, Barry, from 7.30pm-11pm.

Tickets (£16), include a buffet and disco; all welcome.

There will be a fundraising raffle, with proceeds going to the ValePlus minibus fund. Information and tickets from ValePlus on 01446 746691 or see www.valeplus.org.uk.

Flower club

THE Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers' Club meets on Wednesday, November 4 for a Christmas demonstration entitled 'Deck The Halls', by National Demonstrator Pam Lewis.

The meeting will begin at 7.30pm; visitors £7, to include a seasonal drink and mince pie. For further information, phone 01446 774333.

Age Connects coffee

Age Connects will hold a coffee morning at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Saturday, November 7 (10am – 12 noon).

New and nearly-new ladies', men's and children's clothes; refreshments and a raffle. All proceeds go to Age Connects Senior Health Shop.

Donations of clothes are welcome, and can be handed in at the shop. Contact 01446 732385 for more information.

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Local Rotarians hand over fifth lifesaving defibrillator to farm



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THE Rotary Club of Barry has presented a defibrillator, purchased with the help of Welsh Hearts, to the Amelia Trust Farm.

This is the fifth defibrillator that the club has presented in the local area.

October marks the start of a busy autumn programme for the club. On Thursday, (October 22) they will host an international lunch in the Memorial Hall with the Inner Wheel Club of Barry. Plans are well in hand for the annual Fireworks Fiesta to be held on Barry Island at 7.45pm on Thursday, November 5 come rain or shine!

The club will have stalls at the High Street Christmas lights switch-on at the end of November and will also be supporting the Dinas Powys Dickensian fair in December. A Christmas concert with Inner Wheel in a residential home in Barry is also planned in December.

The Rotary Club of Barry meets weekly in the Glenbrook Inn on Thursdays at 6pm for 6.30pm start. More details are available from secretary Phil Hunt on 01446 720000, or visit ribi.org

The photograph shows club president Paul Halstead making the presentation to Karen Turnbull, director of the Amelia Trust Farm.

CELEBRATING WI GROUPS ON A TOUR OF THE SENEDD



MEMBERS of Glamorgan WI branches celebrating the centenary of the movement, are being invited to the Senedd for an official tour of the Senedd with talk, tea and Welsh cakes.

The first visits were undertaken by Rhose, Llantwit Major and Barry WI groups, who were welcomed by the Vale AM Jane Hutt on October 9.

Ms Hutt commented that after 100 years, it was inspiring to see how women continue to join together to make a difference in matters that are important to them."

Jane Hutt AM with WI members from Rhose, Llantwit Major and Barry.



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Frustration for Vale Council – and public ... as more travellers arrive at Nell's Point

by GEM
REPORTER

THE travellers who occupied Nell's Point car park early last week, moved on after the Vale Council obtained a legal order – only for a new group to arrive on Friday.

It meant frustration for the council officials who had spent Thursday, October 15, tidying up the car park in preparation for the public to be able to use it over the weekend.

When the second group arrived last Friday, a trader told The GEM: "I couldn't believe it when another group of travellers turned up."

"It will have an effect on trade because people can't park at Nell's Point while travellers occupy the land."

"I wonder whether the Vale Council will be able to recoup

some of the costs incurred by first group of travellers.

"I presume the council can track them through their licence plates."

However, the second group did not stay long. A council statement, released on Friday, said: "The Vale Council has removed a group of travellers who had occupied Nell's Point car park at Barry Island without authorisation, for the second time this week."

"On Friday, October 16, the council served an order for possession to travellers who had arrived earlier that day, after a group had previously been removed from the site on Wednesday, October 14."

"The council was granted

the order at a hearing at Cardiff Civil Justice Centre earlier in the week.

"The car park will remain closed for the weekend."

Vale MP Alun Cairns has been at loggerheads with the Vale Council over the issue, and he is suggesting that travellers were allowed to stay too long when they occupied playing fields in Dinas Powys in the summer.

(This issue is the subject of Mr Cairns' column on page 9).

The Conservative Assembly candidate for the Vale, Ross England, said: "There is a very real risk that the Vale now has a reputation as being soft on trespassers."

"The council must do everything possible within the law to remove trespassers as quickly as possible."



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'I feel like a million dollars – well, half a million!'



John and Mary

IF you want to know what half a million dollars feels like in your hands, visit the state treasury in the Arkansas capital at Little Rock.

A Cadoxton couple, John and Mary Viney, did this while on a driving tour through Louisiana, Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi. They stopped off for two days in Little Rock.

"On this trip, I was determined to get to the three capitals I had missed on previous visits," John said.

"It was fascinating touring the buildings housing old and new Government agencies in Montgomery, Alabama and Jackson, Mississippi, but what happened at Little Rock made lasting memories.

"During a self-guided tour of the building, built in the early part of the 19th century, we came across the invitation to visit the treasury, and

opened the door. When they knew we were from Wales, we received an extra special warm welcome.

"Our host invited us to open the large vault door weighing 11 tons and installed in 1912, revealing a hoard of bundled cash.

"She told us we were lucky, as state law dictates they must keep at least \$250,000 within, but they had just received a delivery totalling \$500,000.

"We raised our arms, as bundles ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000, were placed in a pile and as each bundle went on, the excitement increased until we were carrying the half million.

"They had a photographer take our photo and the smiles showed how much such an experience meant.

"After several minutes of information about the treasury from our host, sadly, it was time to place it all back, the hard part!

"But more surprises were to come: state treasurer Dennis Milligan had been informed visitors from Wales were here and he came out and invited us into his office for coffee and a chat.

"Keen to find out about Wales, he asked lots of questions. It was interesting to know he had only been elected treasurer a matter of months and already his decisions on investing the people's money were paying dividends.

"The sobering part was to learn that a predecessor was jailed for two years for bribery and corruption!

"Dennis gave us some information

about his business and family life and then it was time to leave, but not before some bags containing Arkansas 'goodies' and all printed photos were handed over for us to take home.

"Before leaving, our host told us that the treasury was the most visited office in the capital because the state law gave all residents of Arkansas the absolute right to "see the money", as it belongs to the people.

"We certainly saw it and also held it in our hands; so when we hear that expression – 'feels like a million dollars' – we will know exactly what they mean!" John added.

VALE COUNCIL IN LINE FOR AWARD

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council has been shortlisted by the Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM) for a Sustainability and Resource Award.

The awards recognise good examples of partnership working to achieve a safer, cleaner environment.

The council picked up the award for its initiative in setting up the Visible Services Task Group comprising, Keep Wales Tidy, South Wales Police, the Probation Service, Youth Offending Service, South Wales Fire Service, fly tipping Wales, local businesses, landlords and members of the local community.

The Visible Services Task Force provides

advice and help on recycling and disposing of waste correctly.

Cabinet member for visible and leisure services, Coun Gwyn John, said: "This is a wonderful achievement, and shows how much more effective we can be when we work in

partnership with others. Initiatives such as this foster a real community spirit and will hopefully make the Vale of Glamorgan a safer and cleaner place for visitors and residents alike."

The award ceremony takes place in London on November 5.

We're moving with the times!

OUR customers moved. We are now at Unit 54, Vale Business Park.

To find us, take the first right turn after the Security Lodge, follow the road around to the right – we are halfway along on the right hand side.

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Sherman play wins an award

SHERMAN Cymru has won a UK theatre award for best new play for Bridgend-born Gary Owen's play Iphigenia in Splott.

Directed by Rachel O'Riordan, it has been widely praised by audiences and critics since its opening on May 8.

Rachel O'Riordan commented: "I am very proud of Gary Owen's fantastic achievement, and the recognition of his talent this award so wonderfully represents."

The play focuses on the impact of welfare cuts on today's society.

Directory of volunteers
GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) has published a free directory of almost 500 voluntary and community groups in the Vale.

For free electronic copies email GVS enquiries@gvs.wales. Hard copies available at Glamorgan Voluntary Services, Barry Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, Barry, CF62 9DA.

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READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

KEEP TAX CREDITS

THE Government has no idea that people depend on tax credits to survive, and there will be a lot more having to claim other benefits if the tax credits are reduced.

It's ok for those with large salaries and second homes, but other people are not so lucky.
Ellen Martin,
Barry.

A special invite from the Butterflies' team!

THE Butterflies team would like to invite you to our Christmas Butterflies and Yankee Candle famous event on Sunday, November 1 from 11am – 4pm at Butterflies, 8 High Street, Barry.

For amazing special offers, goodie bags and lots more, I have also decided to make this event even bigger and extra special and link it with two special charities that mean a lot to me.

Atal Y Fro – supporting through domestic violence, have been an amazing help, and also Vale Plus Café No. 5, who give opportunities for people with special needs and make amazing food including the best ever hot chocolate which I have to have every morning!

During our event we

will be raising awareness for both these amazing charities and, hopefully, raise money through our amazing raffle and donations.

We also have an extra special surprise that we will be opening on the day of our event – an extension to our fabulous store. We will also be giving away special keys to this amazing extension for the first customers of the day to open and view first.

Our great team has put much thought and effort into the event and really hope that you will enjoy this special day.

We will be working with Café No. 5, where you can also pick up your goodie bags and enter our raffle – plus a free cake with every drink purchased!

Please contact us for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

Write Will FOR FREE!

LOCAL solicitors are offering their services on a voluntary basis, to help people write their Will this November during Will Aid's Make a Will Month.

Instead of charging a fee, they are inviting the Will-maker to make a voluntary donation to Will Aid.

The suggested donation is £95 for a single basic Will and £150 for a pair of basic matching or 'mirror' Wills.

All the money donated is shared between the nine participating charities that carry out life changing work here in the UK and around the world.

Most charity Will schemes are aimed at older people. Will Aid is different.

It is open to adults of any age and that's because Will Aid solicitors know how important it is for everyone to have a proper Will.

It doesn't matter

Law-makers must act to curb rugby injuries

PROFESSOR John Fairclough's remarks about the high incidence of injuries in rugby received a great deal of coverage last week.

One area he highlighted was that many teams only put the bare minimum of forwards into a ruck, meaning that there are a number of 19-stone missiles lurking in midfield, just waiting to be launched at the opposition.

whether you are 18 or 80 years old if you want your worldly possessions to go to particular individuals or organisations, you need to have a valid Will and keep it up to date.

If you have young children, it is also vital to ensure that you have made arrangements for their guardianship should the worst happen.

Will Aid is a fantastic opportunity to get an affordable Will and give to good causes at the same time.

You can contact a Will Aid solicitor today to make an appointment. Participating solicitors in this area are:

RLE Law: Ms Emma Hardwidge, telephone 01656 656861, 4 Derwen Road, Bridgend, CF31 1LH; and **Alan Simons & Co: Mr Gianpiero Molinu**, telephone 02920 703991, 5 Bradenham Place, Penarth, CF64 2AG.

Peter de Vena Franks, Will Aid Campaign Director.

He is quite right, and it occurs to me that there are plenty of occasions when the spectator would think he was watching a rugby league match, played by 15 instead of 13.

He also opposed tactical substitutions, on the grounds that if forwards had to last the full 80 minutes, they would start losing weight.

Will the law-makers be able to put his common sense views into practice? (Name and address supplied)



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Created using the hallmarks of traditional joinery, the Heritage range of flush, sash windows are designed with 19th century detailing but made from modern, composite materials.

The authentic appearance of the Heritage range has been created considering Article 4 Conservation regulations to conform to historical design guidelines. Details include traditional putty lines, butt joints and ironmongery.

The foil that helps create the textured appearance of timber is continued throughout the window, including the reveal at the edge of the frame.

To maintain the period appearance it's important to choose the correct colour and finish. The Heritage range comes in a number of classic shades as well as natural finishes including English and Silvered Oak. It's this attention to detail that has helped the Heritage range win the approval of planning officers*.

*Conservation guidelines vary between local authorities, so it is advisable to check for your specific area.

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A fun day to celebrate black cats and all things feline!

As well as meeting the lovely cats in our care there will be lots to do including: fancy dress competition for best dressed black human cat (judging to take place at 2pm), bring in your cat themed carved pumpkin - prizes for best one (judging to take place at 2.30 pm), face painting and children's corner in the creepy cavern, soup & rolls, hot dogs, cake stall and refreshments, tombola, raffle, bric-a-brac, books and more!

Admission £1.00 adults, 50p children, 3 & under free

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For further information please contact:

T: 01656 724 396

E: bridgend@cats.org.uk

W: www.bridgend.cats.org.uk

f: [cpbridgend](https://www.facebook.com/cpbridgend)



*Thank you
xx*

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St Andrews Major Golf Club celebrates an excellent year on presentation night

CLUB captain Hilary James welcomed over 50 members and guests to the 2015 presentation evening at the clubhouse on Saturday, October 3, where St Andrews Major golfers received their awards and trophies.

The major club trophy, the President's Cup, was presented to a new member, Roy HARRY, by the current president, Yvonne Addison.

A special presentation was made to David Clark who, the first hole-in-one on the 11th of the new nine-hole golf course.

The season saw Mike Cockfield (club captain) winning nine titles and Mike Reddi winning six titles.

Karen Bryan was a runner up (or the winner) across the ladies, seniors and mixed groups and a

special mention goes to our new member, Jane Gray winning three out of the five Ladies Gold Leaf competition, and finishing runner-up in the ladies gross competition.

Junior champions are 14-year-old Callum Thomas, who won the gross prize, and 13-year-old Ceri Vaughn Jones, who captured the net prize. Both of these talented juniors have showed their potential this year with success at both club and county level.

Some of the Gold Leaf Competition winners: Mens Champion, Mike Cockfield; Mens Nett, Tony Baghurst; Ladies Champion, Morgan Peterson; Ladies nett, Hilary James; Junior Champion, Callum Thomas, Junior Nett, Ceri Vaughan-Jones; Senior Champion, Mike Cockfield; Mixed Pairs Gross, Mike Cockfield and Tanya Olney; Senior Nett, Karen Bryan; Mixed Pairs Nett, Mike Norris and Yvonne Addison.



Dave Clark.



Then junior champions with John Hastings.

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FROM LEFT: Andrew Edmunds, club manager at St Andrews Golf Club, pictured with Borg Spiro and Gerard McGrath.



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Mike Reddi and Mike Cockfield with Hilary James.

SITUATED in a greenbelt area of the Vale, St Andrews Major Golf Club & Driving Range offers professional catering facilities at its newly-refurbished clubhouse near Barry.

Following the successful transition from 18 to nine holes in December 2014, two local business are now under one roof - Spiro's award-winning caterers providing Sunday Carvery, and specialist services, plus G.F.M as the golf club's in-house caterers for daily

bar meals. Weddings, parties and corporate events - we can cater up to 120 guests to suit all budgets - our management team will ensure your big day is a special one!

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'Let there be light in our street' – CALL



RESIDENTS in Dinas Powys have complained that streetlights in Powys Gardens have not been repaired for over two months.

They contacted Vale MP Alun Cairns and Welsh Assembly Conservative candidate, Ross England, met them to hear their concerns about being "left in the dark".

The group explained that despite their best efforts in pressing the Vale Council, the lights in the street had not been functioning for over nine weeks, with

no firm date set for power to be reinstated.

Mr England said: "Having visited, the lack of street lights is dangerous with uneven kerbs on both sides of the street. The narrow cut-through has slippery rotten apples falling from trees onto an unlit path – it is simply an accident waiting to happen. Alun Cairns has written to the authority for urgent answers. I find it very concerning to see the residents being treated so shabbily by the local authority."

"It is completely unacceptable for the Vale Council to ignore an entire street for over two months. They should get their act together and work with Western Power to return light to an area that currently sits in darkness."

The GEM contacted the Vale Council and Western Power, and a spokesman for the council explained that the first report of the fault had been on October 5. A site visit confirmed it was a Western Power matter, and the company had been informed.

A Western Power spokeswoman said: "We attended on October 7 and changed a fuse. The lights came back on."

"However, on the 16th we attended because the lights had gone out again, and this time an underground cable fault was diagnosed."

She added that engineers were expected to be on site Wednesday (yesterday) after The GEM went to press, and said that Western Power expected to have the problem fixed by either Wednesday or Thursday.

MERGER OF BARRY SCHOOLS PROPOSED

CADOXTON primary and nursery schools could amalgamate next summer – under a Vale Council plan.

On October 19, the council's cabinet decided to consult on proposals for the two neighbouring schools to merge. The council plans to consult parents, staff and pupils on a proposal that would see the schools amalgamated under the leadership of one headteacher and a single governing body.

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for

children's services and schools, said: "The Cadoxton schools already work together very closely, with many children moving from the nursery school to the primary school when they turn five. Most primary schools in Barry already have a nursery class and simplifying the management structure for these two schools represents a logical step."

The consultation period will run from November 2 to December 14.

Couple wed in Penarth



JADE Wheatley and Benjamin Youde were married on Saturday, October 10 at the Manor House Hotel, in Penarth.

The bride was given away by



her father, Stephen Wheatley, and had her sister, Gemma Farmer, as her maid of honour.

The groom's two sisters, Molly and Lois Cameron, were bridesmaids. Ring bearer was

Will Wheatley (their son) and pageboys were Jac and Joshua Farmer and Charlie Johnson-Wheatley. The bride and groom are off to Las Vegas on their honeymoon.

Man conducts own survey on demand for supermarket

AS a rule, communities in the Vale do not welcome the arrival of a national supermarket, but a Llantwit Major man has bucked that trend and produced a market survey that he hopes will persuade Sainsbury's to reactivate its interest in the town.

Here at The GEM, we find it easy to predict the reaction whenever a supermarket is proposed.

As a rule, those opposing a new arrival are more motivated than those in favour, so the majority of correspondence will always oppose the plan.

That was the case when Sainsbury's were interested in opening a supermarket and petrol station near Llanmaes.

Vehement opposition came, in particular, from the town council, town centre traders and Llanmaes residents.

At the time, Mr Gordon Wilkie, who lives in Llantwit Major, was prominent in calling for the supermarket to come.

He was outnumbered, but put his case with great energy.

In the end, Sainsbury's mothballed the idea, without giving a specific reason, but many observers felt that it was part of the overall cutting back of store openings that several supermarkets were doing.

However, Mr Wilkie has produced his own market survey, delivering questionnaires to around 2,000 homes. He had 500 returned. The GEM was provided with a copy of the questionnaire.

He said that, out of the 500 responses, 430 (86 per cent) did want a national supermarket and petrol station.

A total of 66 (13.2 per cent) did not want one and four (0.8 per cent) were undecided.

Mr Wilkie told The GEM: "Sainsbury's may use this survey as an aid in their decision to submit a planning application for the construction of a supermarket and petrol station in our area."

"I would like to say thank you to all participants for completing the survey which has now been passed onto the agent/supermarket for review."

He said that he believed that Sainsbury's were still interested in opening near Llantwit.

Bake Off in Penarth

THE Penarth Bake Off will be the ultimate baking battle, where passionate baking fans compete to be crowned Penarth's Best Baker.

Over the next few weeks organisers are looking for entrants – whether you are a parent, grandparent, school pupil, business owner, or group/association.

They are aiming to raise money and awareness for Forces Support, for whom local fundraising manager Sian Woodland works, after losing her fiancé Paul. Entry forms are available to download. Apply online at candidcreative.co.uk/penarthbakeoff.

NATASJA'S AMAZING WEEK WITH THE USAF

RECENTLY, Barry Air Cadet Natasja Gill spent an amazing week with the United States Air Force, at Ramstein base, Germany.

Natasja's busy week at Ramstein saw her visit the United States Air Force Europe Transport Command looking at a variety of transport aircraft including the C130 Hercules, C17 Globe Master and the C5 Galaxy.

Natasja also had the opportunity to meet American cadets for a sports evening which was really good fun. Natasja's fitness level was the equivalent of a 2 Star American General.

Natasja also visited a German Air Force base where all the cadets experienced had a ride in a Fox Jeep and Wolf Armoured Personnel Carrier. Furthermore, there was also the opportunity to meet German service personnel who provided a tour of their Tornado Squadron.

This was followed by a low level flyby from

the Tornado aircraft.

Natasja said: "I had the most amazing time while I was there and we visited many museums about both World Wars and D-day."

"We stayed in a specific base on the main Ramstein camp, this part was called tent city."

"We would have breakfast and dinner in the mess and throughout the day we would do a multitude of activities such as visiting other US Air bases including Spangdahlem and Kising where we had an NCO course and a tour of a F-16 Fighter Squadron and of course some shopping as well."

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 12-18 years old (from school year-8).

The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm – 9.30pm near the Memorial Hall, or contact the Squadron on 01446 747734; email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org for more information.

DANIEL IS ELECTED AS THE VALE YOUTH MAYOR



Ty Hafan lottery winning numbers

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery number D901.

● **£2,000:** 413068.
● **The rollover, which now stands at £1,500 was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 340436, 395838, 992497, 151006, 379588, 870617, 242067, 743665, 122749, 520265, 889877.

● **£5:** 459928, 255734, 959842, 307378, 681869, 343956, 975476, 53 2300.

451353, 871102, 674180, 849004, 258441, 421587, 698624, 579032, 784382, 584571, 249843, 187771, 722840, 534403, 816815, 372043, 556531, 172486, 257340, 378965, 205144, 348271, 252450, 443716, 881206, 865703, 323961, 732494, 569932, 618419, 561740, 513919, 764052, 186723, 235923, 581338, 822903, 608117, 751620, 451169, 255550, 139688, 479669, 293388, 465323, 1469, 1700, 1829, 414.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above. For lottery information please telephone 02920 975476, 53 2300.

Pictured from left: Deputy Leader Coun Stuart Egan, Youth Mayor Daniel Marshall, Deputy Youth Mayor Bronwen Lloyd and Leader of Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore.

DANIEL Marshall, from Cowbridge Comprehensive School, has been elected as the Vale of Glamorgan's Youth Mayor, with Bronwen Lloyd from Ysgol Morgannwg elected as Deputy Youth Mayor.

They were chosen at a meeting of the Vale Youth Forum on Monday (October 19), presided over by the Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore.

As part of Local Democracy Week, the elections succeeded in engaging electors, with 3,802 pupils from schools across the Vale

casting their votes. Coun Neil Moore said: "All the candidates had excellent manifestos and presented convincing cases in their election videos. It is clear that they are passionate about representing young people in the Vale and can feel rightly proud of their efforts."

He added: "I would like to congratulate our new Youth Mayor, Daniel Marshall, on his election and Bronwen Lloyd, who becomes Deputy Youth Mayor."

"I would also like to congratulate our other candidate, 13-year-old Rhys Powell from Barry Comprehensive, who will no doubt be a strong contender in next year's election."

VISITORS FLOCK TO WORLD WAR 2 HISTORY WEEKEND AT POW CAMP



THE year 2015 is the 70th anniversary of 'The Welsh Great Escape' from the World War Two German prisoner of war camp at Island Farm in Bridgend.

To commemorate this, the Hut 9 Preservation Group staged a special Open Event last weekend when the locked doors of the hut from which this famous escape was made were opened to allow hundreds of visitors a rare look inside this famous building.

Members of the preservation group and over 50 living historians dressed in period uniforms gave talks and guided tours inside the hut, which is usually closed to visitors. A number of World War Two vehicles were also on site.

The group has worked hard over the past year to kit out all the rooms as they would have appeared during the Second World War, and visitors were able to see the extent of these improvements, including the newly-renovated visitors' centre next door.

This building now contains a re-creation of the night that 70 Germans escaped through a tunnel dug from one of the rooms in Hut 9.

A replica guard tower has been constructed, as well as an escape tunnel for families to try out their hands at escaping, and historians were on hand to tell visitors about the history of the site, from its occupation by female workers at the nearby ordnance factory to its housing of hundreds of German prisoners of war.

The group's chairman, Dr Jonathan Hicks, said: "We are always delighted at the high level of interest in the site, and our preservation work, from people of all ages. This open weekend was fully booked up months in advance, and we have only a limited numbers of places remaining for our March 2016 open weekend. We are even taking bookings for our October 2016 event!"

Donations to the Hut 9 voluntary group, which is seeking to assure the future of the site, are welcomed and allow the group to make even more improvements to the building and surrounding area.

To reserve a place on the next Hut 9 tours on March 5 and 6, 2016, email Dr Hicks at bookings@hut9.org.uk. Details of the tours are available via the group's website: www.hut9.org.uk.

JPH



PHOTOGRAPHS
by **GLYN EVANS**

OTHER PICTURES ARE
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased
by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

News from the Barrivale Bridge Club

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club for October 13 are as follows:

Joint first, Alan Jones and Sean Macdougall, 58.33 per cent, Mick Green and Ken Hannah, 58.33 per cent; third, Irene Thomas and Jenny Vaughan, 57.08 per cent.

Alan Jones and Sean Macdougall also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join, call 01446 418380; 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 or all at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DAVE REED

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2015/01073/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Refurbishment of agricultural barn
Location/Lleoliad:	Glebe Farm, St Hilary
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	St. Hilary
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2015/01132/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Proposed demolition and redevelopment of The Beachcomber, Barry for eight residential flats and associated ancillary works
Location/Lleoliad:	The Beachcomber, Lakeside, Barry
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Barry (Marine)
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2015/01134/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	New dwelling and garage at plot adjacent to The Old Bakehouse
Location/Lleoliad:	The Old Bakehouse, Greenfield Way, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Llanblethian
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2015/01138/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Extension to rear of property to create single storey kitchen/diner
Location/Lleoliad:	30, Victoria Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2015/01165/CAC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Proposed demolition and redevelopment of The Beachcomber, Barry for eight residential flats and associated ancillary works
Location/Lleoliad:	The Beachcomber, Lakeside, Barry
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Barry (Marine)

Listed Building Consent/Caniatâd Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2015/00972/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Change of use of existing single storey barn to a Cafe/Deli/Restaurant
Location/Lleoliad:	Ty Maen Farm Buildings, Ogmere By Sea
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2015/01037/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Replacement of existing first floor conservatory with two storey infill to east side of front elevation
Location/Lleoliad:	Springbank Nursing Home, College Road, Barry
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2015/01154/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Remedial masonry work to front and side elevations
Location/Lleoliad:	Natwest, 2, Plymouth Road, Penarth
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2015/01164/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Proposed alterations to existing house and outbuildings
Location/Lleoliad:	Keepers Cottage, Lower Porthkerry, Porthkerry Road, Rhosce
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2015/01139/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Application for a new carbon zero four bedroom detached bungalow
Location/Lleoliad:	The Walled Garden, Lane to Wenvoe Castle Golf Course, Wenvoe
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Affecting former Walled Kitchen garden wall at Wenvoe Castle – W Range, Grade II and former Coach House and Stables, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2015/01093/OUT
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Construction of a rural enterprise dwelling along with associated equestrian buildings and landscaping utilising the existing vehicle access to the site

Location/Lleoliad: Land at North East of St. Hilary

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2015/01129/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Development of 12 dwellings and associated infrastructure
Location/Lleoliad: Land at The Rectory, Wenvoe

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2015/01131/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Proposed removal of fill material, importation of inert wastes with the progressive restoration of the former mineral working areas associated with the former Ely Brickworks
Location/Lleoliad: Photovoltaic Installation, Cwrt Yr Ala Road, Caerau, Cardiff (former Ely Brickworks)

May affect a Public Right of Way Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2015/01129/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Development of 12 dwellings and associated infrastructure
Location/Lleoliad: Land at The Rectory, Wenvoe

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2015/01139/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Application for a new carbon zero four bedroom detached bungalow
Location/Lleoliad: The Walled Garden, Lane to Wenvoe Castle Golf Course, Wenvoe

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/ Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Land at Sycamore Cross, Pendoylan Lane and North of A48, Bonvilston.

I give notice that Bonvilston Vale Limited & Village Homes LLP is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Development of 120 homes including affordable homes, new vehicle, pedestrian and cycle access, improvement works to Pendoylan Lane, regrading of site, drainage, landscape works, provision of public open space, demolition of existing modern timber stables and all associated works. The proposal has been submitted with an AMENDED environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement Addendum at a charge of £4.50 via cheque made payable to Barton Willmore LLP from Barton Willmore LLP, Greyfriars House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff. CF10 3AL so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 12 November, 2015.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 12 November 2015 quoting reference 2015/00960/FUL.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land at Sycamore Cross, Pendoylan Lane and North of A48, Bonvilston

Hysbysir trwy hyn Bonvilston Vale Limited & Village Homes LLP n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfeirnod 2015/00960/FUL o 120 oeddydd newydd yn y cyfeiriad isod. Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd brynio copïau o'r datganiad Adendum am £4.50 via cheque made payable to Barton Willmore LLP from Barton Willmore LLP, Greyfriars House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff. CF10 3AL tra bydd y stoc ar gael.

Cafodd y cynnyg ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol DIWYGIEDIG sydd ar gael i'w darllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd brynio copïau o'r datganiad Adendum am £4.50 via cheque made payable to Barton Willmore LLP from Barton Willmore LLP, Greyfriars House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff. CF10 3AL tra bydd y stoc ar gael.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfenau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 12 November, 2015.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 12 November 2015 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2015/00960/FUL.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 22 October, 2015

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager, Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

When the WRU threatened to ban five Welsh legends

IN his autobiography published this week, legendary Wales and British Lions winger, JJ Williams, tells how the WRU tried to ban him – twice!

The first occasion was for daring to admit publicly that he was considering a world record offer from a rugby league club. The second was over an alleged illegal payment of expenses from a charity match, which also involved four other players, resulting in the Welsh selectors threatening to drop half their team before an England match unless they repaid the money.

"This story has never been told, until now," says Bridgend-based JJ; "I know it to be true because I was one of

the five and of all the ludicrous examples of alleged breaches of the amateur regulations, this was the most ludicrous one of all."

In February 1975, before the team were due to play against England at Arms Park, five members of the Wales team – Gareth Edwards, Phil Bennett, Mervyn Davies, Bobby Windsor and JJ himself, were told they could not participate in the game as all five had been accused of taking money for the charity match in Newport.

"None of us could believe what we were hearing," adds JJ.

JJ Williams – The Life and Times of a Rugby Legend is on sale from October 19 (£14.99, Y Lolfa).



Another successful year for bridge club

SULLY Bridge Club, have celebrated another very successful year – their membership has increased to 120 fully paid up members, and the afternoon bridge sessions are more than well supported.

On Wednesday, Peter

Millar and Trish Tracy (above), were presented with the Peter Cross Bowl as winners of the ladder tournament.

The Claret Jug, along with a cheque for £20 from the WBU, was presented to Lilian and David Hopkins (below) as the most improved couple over the year.

EK



St Cyres pupils take up world challenge in China



Hearing resource base pupils with Clare Gardner.

A GROUP of pupils from St Cyres School recently spent four weeks in China, taking part in a World Challenge Expedition from Chengdu to Beijing.

The group travelled to the town of Emei Shan to complete a three day acclimatisation trek up to the 3,099m summit of one of the four sacred Buddhist mountains in China.

Kanding in the valley of the Tibetan Plateau, at approximately 2,500m, was the gateway town to the group's main seven-day Minya Gongga trek up to an altitude of 4,800m.

They returned to Chengdu to visit the Panda sanctuary, one of the highlights for the group who were lucky enough to see baby pandas in the breeding area.

The next phase was a day in a primary school teaching English to young children and then onto a project at an eco farm.

Two long overnight train journeys followed, first to Xi'an to visit the beautiful and iconic Terracotta Warriors, the eighth wonder of the ancient world. The group also spent time in the backstreets of the Muslim market quarter.

The group stayed in one of the authentic Beijing 'hutongs', an area of extensive alleyways formed by lines of courtyard properties, small shops, tea houses and small eateries. Before flying home the group visited a section of the ancient Great Wall.

Geography fieldwork

YEAR-13 geography students carried out fieldwork on Contrasts in Deprivation in a number of areas of Cardiff recently. Pupils compared housing quality and the physical environment by carrying out a range of primary research.

They visited the most expensive road in Cardiff in the suburbs of Cyncoed. They contrasted this area with another suburban area, Ely and then an inner city area of Cardiff, Splott. They ended the day in the semi-rural location of Michaleston-Le-Pit to compare rural deprivation with the urban areas they had visited earlier in the day. A very enjoyable day was had by all!

Year-12 geography students have recently returned from a residential fieldtrip to Gower and Swansea.

PiXL Event

PUPILS from both year-10 and year-11 took part in a PiXL event in the Celtic Manor resort in Newport. The pupils were given a comprehensive guide into how to apply for the top universities in the UK, including the prestigious Russell Group universities.

There were very inspiring talks from tutors at both Oxbridge and Kings College London, which gave an insight into what the top universities require from students. Our pupils can perhaps be inspired by the success of St Cyres student, Ewan Salter, who was recently accepted at Cambridge University. The pupils were also given strategies on how to succeed in their GCSE and AS Level examinations. A very good afternoon was had by all pupils and staff in the beautiful grounds of the Celtic Manor Golf course.

Ronak's Nuffield placement

RONAK SHAH was one of 75 students who took part in a Nuffield placement over the summer holiday. Over 330 students applied for a placement so this was very prestigious.

Ronak is pictured explaining to Nobel Prize Laureate Sir Martin Evans his research into how cancerous cells can cross the blood brain barrier at the Nuffield Awards Evening.

Ronak's research involved using a variety of techniques including Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) to amplify DNA samples. This is the same technique used at crime scenes to create genetic fingerprints.

Ronak's research will help us to understand why

some cancers are more likely to spread into the brain when they metastasise. Ronak has written an in-depth report explaining the techniques that he used and the conclusions that he drew from his results.

Current year-12 science students are encouraged to apply for a Nuffield bursary through the Technquest website.

Music in the HRB

PUPILS from the Hearing Resource Base were delighted to receive a generous donation from the proceeds raised at the Penarth Community Spring celebration organised by singing teacher Clare Gardner.

The money will be used to buy additional percussion instruments for use by pupils with hearing loss in music lessons and to fund a workshop to develop their performance skills. We already have some talented musicians amongst our HRB pupils who benefit from the outstanding expertise and support of the school music department and we are looking forward to this exciting new opportunity.

SPORTS NEWS

THE St Cyres year-7 and 8 girls travelled to Eastern High School to play in the Cardiff Cup.

Their opponents appeared much bigger and stronger but the St Cyres girls held their own for much of the game. Amy Buckler was outstanding in goal, making several great saves. Ella Hilliard and Lucia Davies began to link well in attack creating a breakaway goal and then Ella scored an absolute 'screamer' from well outside the area.

By half time the score was 5-2 to Eastern High. This score remained with some much improved defensive play from Cerys Leigh, Bethan Havard and Millie Purchase-Smith. Farah Abdo and Nia Manley began to support the attack but St Cyres could not get the all-important goals.

Girl of the Match was awarded to Ella, but Amy also played a vital role in goal. Well done to all the girls involved.

A team made up of girls from year-7 through to year-10 recently played their first home match on our new full-size 3G pitch. An amazing performance saw St Cyres victorious, beating Fitzalan High School 5-1. Well done girls!

Congratulations, Bethan!

BETHAN Havard has been selected for the *Welsh under-14 squad in basketball and the county under-14 hockey team.*

Boys football

FOOTBALL on our brand new full size 3G pitch kicked off this month.

On consecutive evenings, we saw a victory for the year-11 boys against St Iltyd's, followed by a comfortable 4-1 win for the year-8 team. Although the year-10 team lost to Barry Boys the following evening it was a good week for St Cyres football overall, with two teams now progressing to the next round of the Welsh Cup.

A Song for Christmas

PRIMARY schools from Penarth and the surrounding areas are already getting into the festive spirit as they are taking part in St Cyres School's 'A Song for Christmas' music video project.

Llandough, Cogan, Dinas Powys, Fairfield, St Andrews Major and Envelode Primary schools have all been set the task to learn the well known Christmas hit, Mariah Carey's *All I Want for Christmas is You*.

Project co-ordinator and St Cyres music teacher Mr Richard Hopkin will film all of the different schools singing separately and then edit the footage together to create one Christmas music video. Filming and production starts in November ready to be published on St Cyres School's YouTube channel (SCTV) in time for Christmas.

Mr Hopkin said: "Christmas is a time for joining

Eyes set on the top universities.



World Challenge.



together and this video will definitely bring joy to the community. We did this in 2013 and it was very successful, the pupils involved shared it with friends and family through social media and it was viewed thousands of times all around the world."

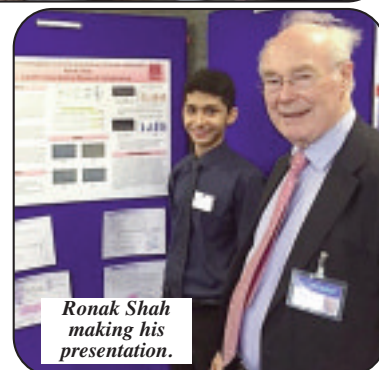
The video is planned to be uploaded to YouTube on December 1.

To see St Cyres' 2013 video, visit YouTube and search 'St Cyres A Song for Christmas 2013'.

ROBOTICS CLUB

THIS week the ICT and Computer Science Department saw the first of a 16-week after-school robotics club run by Technocamps.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning how to use computer science to program robots around obstacle courses. They also became very competitive when trying to make their robots the best (and coolest) with some even demonstrating some excellent dance moves. I'm sure amongst the group we have some of the computer scientists of the future.



Ronak Shah making his presentation.

Seaview Lads results

FISHING has been mixed recently, but all too often the catches haven't been sufficiently good to reward the efforts of anglers.

This hasn't been solely a Seaview lads problem; the weekend's shore team events that are fished by some of the finest south Wales anglers also saw poor returns in spite of many keen anglers' best efforts.

Age and experience has been a key factor in September competitions with pensioners demonstrating the importance of experience and wisdom over simple brute force and athleticism.

An exception to this must be noted with Gary Mitchell demonstrating athletic prowess that belied his years to win outright our recent coach trip competition held at Tenby and then take a notable fifth place on

home territory. A trip to the Gower after the elusive golden grey mullet saw some fish landed but our chair Steven Doble was yet again the bridesmaid, foiled again when his first ever Golden Grey spat the hook upon sight of him - better luck next time Bobo.

On this trip it was good to be able cut our carbon footprint with anglers sharing two hire vans from the boys at CS rather than have to take a dozen cars.

Is this a sign of the times - what with the club taking this green stance, hot on the heels of our going metric, whatever next?!

Late September saw plenty of undersized fish caught but only two fish landed that could be counted. Tony Gwyther landed an eel of 1.3kg to win overall while Kersy landed a 150g silver eel to take second and a sixth place in the shore league team event fished at the same time.

October has seen some better

catches and most notably two of our members have excelled in major competitions with Gary Morgan taking the honours in the latest CIU event and Paul Crooke winning the Seamasters - well done chaps!

On a less upbeat note, our thoughts are with Ken after his recent loss - we're all thinking of you.

RESULTS

October - 1st G Morgan 2.440 kg, 2nd M Langford 0.715 kg, 3rd G Mitchell 0.590kg, 4th J Jones, 5th AB Peterson, 6th A Harris.

September 13 (20 fished) - 1st D Cook 1.700 kg, 2nd G Spiteri 1.500 kg, 3rd R Lougher 1.35 kg, 4th P Roderick 1.200 kg, 5th G Mitchell 1.000 kg, 6th M Langford 0.920 kg.

September 13 - 1st Tony Gwyther 1.38kg, 2nd Mike Kerslake 0.150kg. JC

Ploughing tournament circuit offers keen competition and keeps rural skills alive

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased
by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

A POPULAR feature of life in the Vale is the 'circuit' of competitions that celebrate farming skills.

Ploughing and hedging events are keenly contested, with competitors coming from outside Wales.

The various young farmers' clubs also put on a range of events that keep rural traditions alive.

GEM photographer Glyn Evans was out and about recently at a ploughing competition, and took these pictures of the day.



Cowbridge junior rugby round-up

COWBRIDGE under-12s crashed out of the Blues Cup despite dominating large parts of this cup match at Merthyr.

Cowbridge started well, competing with the bigger Merthyr side and gaining plenty of possession. However, the visitors must have been disappointed with Merthyr's opening try, as four or five tackles were missed as the home side ran from their own half to score in the corner. The try was converted to put Merthyr into a 7-0 lead.

Cowbridge bounced back by applying some pressure inside the Merthyr half, but a mistake led to another home score. With Cowbridge on the attack in their opponents' half, the ball was dropped in midfield and Merthyr picked up the loose ball to run in another long range converted try.

Cowbridge continued to apply pressure and from a scrum inside their opponents' 22, outside half Harry Treharne made a scything break to score to the right of the posts. Cowbridge were unable to add the conversion.

Despite long periods of pressure in the first half, five points was scant reward for the visitors as Merthyr led 14-5 at the break.

The second half proved to be an exciting affair as attacking play moved from one half to the other.

Merthyr were the first to strike as possession from a lineout was driven over from close range to extend the lead

to 19-5.

Cowbridge continued to press and, after a series of attacks, it was prop Alfie Rees who showed real determination to crash over from close range, with Treharne converting.

Merthyr then missed a glorious chance to score as a stumble close to the line prevented them registering their fourth try.

Within a score, the Cowbridge support were on their feet as outside half Treharne came away from a maul inside his own half on a sprint to the line that would have levelled the scores.

The Cowbridge skipper looked odds on to score, only for a magnificent covering tackle to haul him down just short of the try line.

Cowbridge's chance had gone and Merthyr held out in the closing minutes to record a 19-12 victory to progress to the next round.

Cowbridge will be disappointed with this loss as they generated the better scoring chances and will be disappointed at giving away two soft tries through unforced errors.

Squad: Ethan Francis, Harry Treharne, Rhys Ford, Finlay Ball, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Robbie Brown, Rhys Pritchard, Alfie Rees, Tom Brennan, Akka Gwily, Archie Lloyd, Sam Payne, James Jones, Lewys Robins, Aron Kempson, Ifor Rees, Steffan Evans, Finlay Brace, Will Harris and Sebastian Johns-Powell.

MF
After recent successes, the Cowbridge under-10 squad travelled to Llantwit Fardre this week.

Despite our best efforts, we have never managed to beat them since the squad started rugby at under-7s and like us, they were unbeaten so far this season, so both clubs had it all to play for on a chilly and overcast morning.

Both clubs split their squads – Cowbridge into the Antelopes and the Bears and it was the

Bears who took to the field first against their opposite numbers.

Cowbridge started quickly and L Thomas burst through the defence line with one of his trademark strong runs to open the scoring.

We then missed a few tackles and allowed them to reply with a try of their own. Ollie Gale hit back to regain the lead. Llantwit were consistently quicker in the ruck and after another turnover, they levelled the scores.

Then it was all Cowbridge, with firstly a try for Josh Canning and two for Joe Funtek, the first a lovely run breaking through numerous tackles and touching down in the corner. Final score 5-2.

The Antelopes took to the field to play their game and tensions were high as the two unbeaten teams came face to face.

The match didn't disappoint with neither giving an inch. The boys from both teams put their bodies on the line with some immense tackles and rucking.

Llantwit really piled on the pressure and slowly pushed us back, pinning us in our own 22 for most of the second quarter, but the boys copied the exploits of the Welsh team from the day before and refused to let Llantwit through.

The second half started in the same fashion but with Cowbridge in the ascendancy, camping out in the Llantwit 22.

With less than five minutes remaining, the ball came out of a scrum to Harry New, who dashed down the blindside, just managing to elude the desperate Llantwit defence to score in the corner.

The boys then held out for the final few tense minutes for a well-deserved 1-0 win.

Both clubs will be looking forward to the rematch at home later in the season.

AL



VALE ROLLER SKATERS COMPETE IN ANDOVER



THE competition team from Glamorgan Artistic Roller Skating Club recently travelled to Andover to take part in the last event of their competitive year.

It has been a jam-packed year for the skaters and their coaches were pleased that they ended it on a high note with all the skaters performing extremely well.

Evie Denbury, Catrin Parry Griffiths and Mollie Griffith all competed in the newcomers event, as well as in various team events.

Nareece Iqbal, Phoebe Escott,

Charleigh Griffith, Ewan Maxwell, Erin Maxwell, Bethan Daly, Maya Archampong, Michael Vaughan, Kaitlin Daly and Lara Goodwin all took part in solo and team events and the club took home one first place, two bronze medals and a silver.

The skaters are now training hard for their medal tests in November and hope that next year will see the club continue to grow.

If anybody would like more information about the club please see its Facebook page.

AG

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for October 19:

1st Steve Burgoyne and John Evans 63.26 per cent, 2nd Vida Halford and Glyn Williams 62.88, 3rd Tony Disley and Phil Felman 61.36.

LE



ST CLARE'S HOSTS TWO SPORTING FESTIVALS



St Clare's netball team ready for festival fun.



St Clare's rugby team spirit.

RECENTLY, St Clare's School, Newton, Nottage, Porthcawl and West Park primary schools, as well as St Clare's Prep School, enjoyed the last of an Indian summer as they competed in tournaments on the school's impressive netball

Year-5 and 6 pupils from Mynydd Cynffig, courts and rugby fields in Newton.

The Sports tame the Badgers!

BRIDGEND Sports under-10s travelled to the Badgers of Pontyclun last Sunday.

A lot is written about concerns over the numbers of young players taking up the game but Pontyclun was a hive of activity on Sunday as both clubs fielded sides from under-7s through to under-13s, who all did their best to lift the spirits following events of the previous evening.

The Sports under-10s were not at full strength as a few players were absent due to injury. Team spirit is important at such times and in a competitive game against Pontyclun, it was the team spirit that kept the Blue and Whites going right to the end to hold out for a win.

The sides played four 10 minute periods with each period proving to be competitive with the Sports edging the win in the first period and Pontyclun securing their success in the final period.

In the first period, the Sports won the toss and started with possession; some good first up tackling from Pontyclun pressured the Sports. It proved to be an all action half with both sides competing well for the ball in the tackle and on the floor at the ruck.

The first try was claimed by the Sports as they forced Pontyclun to lose ball on their

own line and Ieuan Pilliner pounced on it for his team to take a 1-0 lead. Both teams continued the high tempo of the half, but neither side was able to register any further score before the break.

In the second period, Pontyclun started but were pressured into errors as Callum Lewis, Iestyn John and Thomas Chick constantly tackled their opponents with Dewi Worrall then on hand to secure the ball for the away team at the break down.

Sports players Tom Coles and Tom Chick almost scored with good runs down both flanks but both were bundled into touch at opposite sides of the pitch.

Their team continued to pile of the pressure for Pontyclun and their efforts were duly rewarded when Iestyn John made a break, then linked with Dewi Worrall who forced his way over the score.

Ben King added the next try for the Sports when he powered over to score from close range to secure a 0-3 advantage for the Sports as they ended the second period.

With this score, the away side looked more settled. Starting with possession, they were keen to retain it and did so for periods with some good support play from Jodie Keane, Orson Thomas, Tom Coles and Dewi

Worrall.

Pontyclun kept them out until Mason Balmer was put in space and he made no mistake with a try from five metres out. Callum Lewis got just reward for his efforts, as he sliced open the home team defence to put the Sports into an overall 5-0 lead before Pontyclun rallied when Elliot Donovan Davies set off on a powerful run. He evaded several tacklers to register the home team's first score for the third period to end with the score at 1-5.

In the final period Pontyclun were able to bring on fresh legs to refresh their attack and get some momentum into their game, although it was Callum Lewis for the Sports who snatched the first score with some good passing from Lowri Long.

Pontyclun were to dominate the remainder of the game, however, as tiredness began to set in for the Sports. Pontyclun ran in three tries, one further from Elliot Donovan Davies and two for the pacy Isaac Griffiths before the Blue and Whites regrouped to keep the Badgers out from registering any further score.

Squad: Ben King, Callum Lewis, Dewi Worrall, Iestyn John, Ieuan Pilliner, Jodie Keane, Lowri Long, Mason Balmer, Morgan Edwards, Orson Thomas, Thomas Chick, Thomas Coles. **SP**

The Porthcawl RFC junior rugby round-up

PORTHCAWL UNDER-10S 30, BRYNCETHIN 10
After last week's heavy loss, this game would be more of test of team character in the opening exchanges than that of skill and any personal performance.

The potential to fall apart was a very real risk as confidence could be our biggest enemy.

Bryncethin have produced great players and performances with a great understanding of the game and, like us, punch well above their weight and play the game in the correct manner.

We started with players who didn't get much game time last week, who were more than keen to prove that they were worthy of their starting position. There really was nothing between these two sides and the half-time score at two tries apiece seemed to suggest just that.

The second half however looked entirely different from our perspective. We tackled better, we rucked better and we passed better. The individual skills of our players began to shine through after good ball was won.

With ball in hand we made good yards from our big boys, speedy delivery of the ball at the breakdowns from the half backs, and some very clean heels from the back division.

A clean sheet in the second half was testament to the team's defensive prowess and ever-increasing concentration; running in four more tries in the half gave us the win, 30-10.

We played with a lot

of pride and a togetherness that can only reap more rewards if continued. A great first win for the team but more pleasing was the manner in which they got it.

As coaches all we ask is that they perform to the best of their ability as individuals and more, over as a team. We ask them to implement the new skills and strategies acquired in training and make decisions for themselves as a team within the game whatever they maybe.

Try scorers: Jac Bevan (2), Rhys Hibbert (2), Osian Perkins, Will Thomas-Parker.

UNDER 9S - PORTHCAWL 14, BRYNCETHIN 11
This was our first win of the season and a tough one with Bryncethin pushing us all the way.

Although Bryncethin only had six players they all played their hearts out with some very strong runners cutting our defence to pieces at times.

What was disappointing was the static defence and lack of desire to bring down the runners especially after some great training sessions but in one 10 minute slot we made no tackles at all, but luckily our ability in attack kept us in the game with both Ryan and Theo dancing in and out of tackles for fun and then putting on the afterburners, especially Ryan, scoring four tries in quick succession, showing off his trademark sidesteps in tight spaces, and picking up individual effort for his attacking display.

If we ensure our defensive line works by rushing up together and making tackles I'm sure

we will win plenty more games this year.

In attack we showed all the skills with the best seen from Lewis, who took a pass into space, sidestepping one, spinning out of next tackle and finishing with a sidestep and a sprint to the line to put us into the lead.

Prior to this we passed well all game with some powerful runs resulting in both Dexter and Dylan powering over the line. Piers delivered a high tackle count and also powered over the line at the end to seal the win, showing the determination to win, but earlier in the game he also showed how his skills are improving with a sidestep and angled run into the corner.

Dewi also got on the scoresheet with two good tries in the last 10 minutes helping to build a lead, but it was two players in particular who kept us in the game.

Matty had to wait to get his turn to play and had Bryncethin's players smash through our defence all day but he

tackled Bryncethin's strong runner with a textbook chop tackle. The next play saw the same situation and same result, meaning Matty well deserved top tackler.

Last up, the award of clubman making a difference went to Oscar, whose defence was superb, showing some great aggression in the tackle, showing the team how to drive forward and meet the attackers on the gain line.

In this game, as every other week, Oscar ran the game, passing into space, and today with some good decisions passed ball wide for Dewi and Lewis to sprint over the line.

When Oscar had the chance to run with the ball he ran with determination - well done Oscar and well done team, let's keep this going this week when we are away to Maesteg Celtic.

Porthcawl under-8s were defeated eight tries to six by Bryncethin, while the under-7s were 19-9 winners over Glynneath. TW

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

THE latest results for events at Bridgend Bridge Club are:

Wednesday, October 14, club teams championship - First Tony Haworth, Rob Charlesworth, Julian Pottage and Simon Richards; second Linda Pinnock, John Henson, David Bowen and David Crompton; third Pete Bugden, Geoff Barnes, Graham Norris and Alan Heath.

Thursday, October 15, gentle afternoon bridge - First Arthur Harvey and Glyn Williams; equal second Linda Jenkins and Debbie Lee & Mike Williams and John Henson.

Friday, October 16, club night - First Debbie and Simon Richards; second Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; third Marjorie Morris and

Wendy Williams.

Winners on handicap - Teresa Griffiths and Linda Jenkins.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm when all bridge players are welcome - it does help if players arrive 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm there is gentle bridge for the less experienced when help is available with the bidding.

Bridge lessons are on Thursday mornings at 11.30am, also at Nolton Church Hall - for further information please contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

DN

Llantwit Major & District Dart League tables

'A' LEAGUE TABLE:

Wenvoe Arms 43, Kings Head 'A1' 36, Rugby Club 'A1' 36, Lamb & Flag 35, Shoes St Athan 34, Shoes Peterston 34, Fox & Hounds 33, Rugby Club 'A2' 33, Golden Cups 32, Four Bells 17, Tudor Tavern 15, Blacksmith Arms 13, Kings Head 'A2' 12, Rugby Club 'A3' 12.

'C' League Table

Lamb & Flag 'C1' 39, Lamb & Flag 'C2' 35, Shoes St Athan 31, Golf Club 29, Kings Head 'C1' 28, Tudor Tavern 'C2' 27, Kings Head 'C2' 18, Tudor Tavern 'C1' 13.

DMC

DFC impress in England

SUNDAY saw Bridgend DFC Inclusive Sports football team travel to Preston to play in the North West Ability Counts seven-a-side league.

After a four and a half journey to the north west of England, our team had to rush off the bus, get changed and get straight on the pitch for their first game.

Our first game was against our north Wales rivals Llandudno, who have been playing in this league for many years; they tried their hardest to break through our defence, but our Bridgend boys held their own to deserve a well deserved 0-0 draw.

Our second game was against one of Everton's teams - what an outstanding game, our lads pulled out another

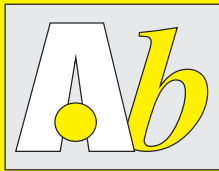
0-0 draw. The third game saw us change our team around to give everyone a game against Walton Sports; although we lost 4-0, it was a great experience for the rest of the lads to play.

Our last game was against Danby Rovers - the lads went into the game with a clear head and pulled out a great 2-1 win with goals from Johnathan Seldon and Kerry Baker.

Considering it was our first time playing in one of the best disabled leagues in England, we held our own and came away with five points.

Well done to everyone on the team and a big thank you to Parrot Motors for helping us with our transport.

KELLY HALL



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LLANTWIT MAJOR £189,950

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LLANTWIT MAJOR - £190,000



Modern detached two bedroom bungalow with integral garage comprising Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Bathroom/WC. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Driveway for parking. Open plan garden to front and neatly laid rear garden. No chain. Ref 825D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £175,000



Modern well presented Georgian style three bedroom semi-detached house and garage comprising Hallway, Lounge/Dining Room, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and off road parking. Neatly laid garden. Ref 832D.

LLANTWIT MAJOR £179,500



Modern well presented three bedroom Georgian style house and Garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Re-fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Good size low maintenance gardens to front, side and rear. Ref 833D.

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £210,000



Stone built two bedroom terraced cottage situated in a sought after area comprising Hallway, Living Room/Dining area, Inner Hall, Utility area, Wet Room/Shower room. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Terrace garden to front. Vegetable plot adjacent. Timber framed garage to the rear with access. Ref 834D.

ST ATHAN £157,500



Modern well maintained three bedroom semi-detached house and garage comprising hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern fitted Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors for the most part. Driveway and open plan garden to front and neatly laid rear garden. Viewing recommended. Ref 837D.

LLANMAES £220,000



Traditional three bedroom double fronted semi detached house situated in a sought after area comprising Hallway, Living Room, Dining Room, Utility Room, Store Room and Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Large gardens to front and garden to rear. Vacant possession. Freehold. Ref 838D.

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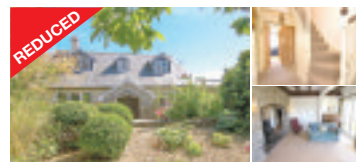


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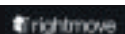


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A gold-rush for the Barry Beavers swimming club!



SUCCESS FOR NIGEL IN SOUTH WALES EVENT

THIS week saw the South Wales Autumn Chess Congress.

Pride of place for Barry Chess Club must go to Nigel Ralphs. In the first round he took a half point bye, and round two saw a win for Nigel, as did rounds three and four.

In the final round Nigel was black against FM Walter Braun, who was leading the tournament with wins from all four of his games. If there was to be a winner in this game he would be the champion. I am pleased to report that Nigel defeated Walter and holds the S Wales Autumn Congress title for 2015.

He was joined in the major section of the tournament by Sam Jukes and Stephen Bonutto. Sam finished with two wins from his five games. This placed him in joint 19th place out of 30 entrants. This was exactly where he was seeded to finish and he ended the tournament without gaining or losing any ratings points.

Stephen only played three matches, so finished bottom of the table, which is where his rating suggested he should finish.

There were two games in the league for Barry as both of our division one teams played. The unbeaten Bosons travelled to Bridgend Central to play the also unbeaten Rockets so something had to give. The Camelots travelled to Cardiff to take on the Bishops.

The Bosons team was not the strongest we have been able to put out but dropped the Rockets like a spent cartridge. With draws on the top three boards and wins for Dave Parsons and Ken Hannah on the bottom boards, we returned home with a 3.5 to 1.5 victory. We remain the only team on 100 per cent win ratio but currently sit behind the Caerphilly Kings, as they won their game by 4.5 to 0.5.

The Camelots were not only outranked on all boards but the lowest-ranked Cardiff player was rated 150 points above our top board. Could we maintain our record of not being whitewashed?

Yes we could, as an excellent win for Sam Jukes meant we lost by 4 to 1. However, as the Cardiff Monarchs also had a big win, the Camelots are now

ensconced in a relegation fight.

In view of the low rankings of our teams, it seems likely that the Camelots and the Quarks in division three will do well to keep the fight going to avoid relegation until the final games of the season.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St

Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

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Barry Beavers travelled to the Rhondda on Saturday, October 10 where 27 swimmers took part against seven other Welsh clubs, winning three gold, eight silver and two bronzes.

Gold medallists were: Talisha Rogers, girls 50metres, and Ffion Jones, girls 100metres, and Nicky Cushen, men's 100metres.

Silver medallists were: Natasha Lynch, girls 25metres, Jack Finch, boys 25metres, Shannon Rogers, ladies 25metres, Philip Daly, men's 25metres, Courtney Rogers, girls 50metres, Heidi Boswell, ladies 50metres, Layla Rogers, ladies 100metres and the junior relay team, Jack Kemp, Tyler Savory, Courtney Rogers, and Abigail Finch.

Bronze medallists were: Lucy Lynch, girls 50metres, Helen Lynch, ladies 50metres.

Barry came first overall, taking the Rhondda Polar Bear Trophy which is a very rare thing to happen. Well done to all the swimmers.

The other swimmers to take part were: Keira Richards, Callum Savory, Joanna Davies, Suzanne Haslam, Louis Davies, Heather Williams, Matthew Lack, Kyle Siirak, Mark Eveleigh, Sarah Davies, Sophie Woodham, Robert Lynch. All these swimmers have improved their times.

I would also like to thank our supporters who came up with us on the bus. Also our patron, Coun Howard Hamilton. Unfortunately Carol was unable to attend, but we wish her a speedy recovery.

Also at the Rhondda, the final league swim of the year was held and Barry came second overall. **PF**

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Public Notice

LICENSING ACT 2003 APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENSE

An application in respect of The Federation Bar 26 Commercial Street, Maesteg, CF34 9DH has been made to the Bridgend County Borough Council.

Proposed Variation of Licensable Activities:
 Sale of Alcohol: Sunday to Monday inclusive 09.00am - 01.00am.

Provision of Regulated Entertainment: Sunday to Monday inclusive 09.00am - 01.00am.
 Opening Hours of Premises: Sunday to Monday inclusive 09.00am - 01.30am.

On Bank and Statutory holidays and on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve the sale of alcohol and the provision of regulated entertainment shall cease at 02.00am and the premises shall close at 02.30am. The application can be viewed in the Licensing Public register by arrangement with the licensing team at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB telephone 01656 643294.

Anyone wishing to object to this application should do so, in writing by 11th November 2015 to Licensing Bridgend County Borough Council Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application to which a maximum fine of £5000 is liable on summary conviction.

Applicant:
 Rhymney Brewery Limited, Lamb & Co, 454 Altair House, Falcon Drive, Cardiff, CF10 4RH.
 Agents for the Applicant dated 14th October 2015.

Thank You

THANK YOU

Floss & Jamie Ball
 for our darling great granddaughter

ISABELLE
 Born on 13th October 2015.
 6lbs 15oz

*Love to you all,
 Nan and Gramps
 (Grandma & Grampy
 to baby Isabelle)xxx*



ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT ADDENDUM RELATING TO PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 2015/00960 AT LAND AT SYCAMORE CROSS, PENDOYLAN LANE AND NORTH OF A48, BONVILSTON

Bonvilston Vale Limited & Village Homes LLP have submitted further information to the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Planning Department, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT relating to planning application ref: 2015/00960 for "Development of 120 homes including affordable homes, new vehicle, pedestrian and cycle access, improvement works to Pendoylan Lane, regrading of site, drainage, landscape works, provision of public open space, demolition of existing modern timber stables and all associated works" at Land at Sycamore Cross, Pendoylan Lane and North of A48, Bonvilston.

The application was submitted to the Local Planning Authority on 16th August 2015. The applicant has now submitted additional ecology information in relation to the Environmental Statement already submitted. A copy of the Environmental Statement Addendum may be inspected by members of the public during normal working hours at Vale of Glamorgan Council, Planning Department, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT until 12th November 2015. Printed copies of the Environmental Statement Addendum may be obtained whilst stocks last at Barton Willmore, Greyfriars House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff, CF10 3AL at a cost of £4.50 via a cheque made payable to Barton Willmore LLP.

Members of the public can comment on Environmental Statement Addendum by writing to the Council at Vale of Glamorgan Council, Planning Department, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT.

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Family Notices

THURLBERT

Allen

Peacefully on October 13th at Llandough Hospital - Allen, well known for his time as a painter and decorator.

Much loved Dad to Amanda, loving brother of June, Peter and Clive. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Allen is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road where floral tributes may be sent. Service to take place at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry until on Tuesday 27th October at 11am. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

GILL

Derek

Suddenly after a short illness on Monday, October 12. Cherished husband of Iris, wonderful father of Deborah and Paul, much loved grandfather of Caitlin, Keir, Joe and Alex.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynwydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral service in the chapel on Friday, October 30 at 3pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 4pm. Immediate family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service for Cystic Fibrosis Research.

JONES

Dilys Evelyn

Peacefully on 13th October, Dilys, aged 58 years, much loved partner of Paul, beloved Mam of Kurt and Trina, devoted Nanny to Abbiame and Eryn. Dilys will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A G Adams & Son until the funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Friday, 30th October at 1pm. By family request please wear casual attire. Family flowers only, donations in lieu if so desired for Marie Curie c/o the Funeral Director.

TURNER

Philip (Taffy)

Suddenly on October 11 at home, Philip of Holton Road, Barry. Beloved husband of Yvonne, a loving father, dear father-in-law and much loved grandad of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Will be sadly missed by all.

Funeral Thursday, October 29, service and cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2pm, where friends please meet. Family flowers only. Enquiries to WH Preene & Son, Main Street, Cadoxton. Tel: 01446 420520.

OVERY

Doreen Olive

Passed away peacefully on October 10 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, aged 82 years. Devoted wife of the late John, much loved mum of Paul, Carole, Karen, Susan, Julie and David. Sister of David, special nan, great nanny and friend.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Thursday October 29, service 1.45pm at The Gathering Place, St Athan, followed by private cremation. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations in lieu, if desired, to Asthma UK c/o J. James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

DOBLE

Jean Margaret (née Lewis)

At home on October 16, at peace in her heartbroken daughter's arms. Jean, wife of the late Chris and adored mum to Emma. Respected father-in-law of Martin, devoted and cherished nanny of Oliver and Ruby-Jean. Much loved auntie to Tracey and Adrian.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Jean is being cared for by Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service until her service at All Saints Church, Barry on Thursday, October 29 at 2.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, may be handed to the Funeral Director at the service, or alternatively via Jean's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to support Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth.

"Life Is Not Forever, Love Is"

PYCROFT

Richard George (Ritchie)

Peacefully on October 9th at Llandough Hospital, Ritchie, well known for his time as a docker in Barry and former Captain, Chairman and President of Cadoxton Bowls Club. Devoted husband to the late Barbara, much loved dad of Raymond and Bryan. Loving father-in-law to Kay.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Ritchie is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at their Windsor Road chapel, Barry (opposite Mount Somer Hotel) on Monday, October 26 at 2pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Floral tributes may be sent to the funeral home.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

HILL

Vera Kathleen

Peacefully on October 17, dearly loved wife of Syd and a wonderful mother, nanny and great nan.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major, until the funeral service on Tuesday, October 27 in Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Alzheimer's Society c/o the funeral home (cheques only please).

WILLIAMS

Ronald Hugh

The family are sad to announce the passing of Ronald (Fatty Williams), aged 77 years at Llandough Hospital on October 16, surrounded by his wife and family.

He will be greatly missed by his loving wife Win, his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Ron is resting at The Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at St Cadoc's, Old Village Church, Cadoxton on Friday, October 30 at 1pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations may be made at the service or via Ron's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to support Marie Curie and the Alzheimer's Society.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

WALSH

Dilys Freda (née Harry)

On October 13 at Holme Tower, Penarth, after an illness courageously borne and surrounded by her family, Dilys of Rhosce, dearly loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Wednesday, October 28, service and cremation 12 noon at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre c/o J. James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

CORP

Brian Jeffrey

Peacefully on October 19, Brian, aged 81 years, beloved husband of the late Mo, wonderful dad to Ann and Nigel, also a doting grandad of Lili.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service at Barry Spiritualist Church, Buttrills Road on Monday, November 2 at 11am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry. Family flowers only.

Birthday Memories

O'CONNOR

Alesha



"When someone you love becomes a memory, That memory, becomes a treasure. Our world is just not the same without you." We love and miss you so much.

Happy 18th today Lesly - Lou Lou Love Jo, Dave & Iestyn xxx

Birthdays

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Depressing defeat for the Farmers

THE annual four ball, better ball match involving 20 members of the Glamorgan Farmers Golf Society against the Monmouthshire Farmers Golf Society, was held recently at St Pierre Golf Club.

Now in its 26th year of competition, this year's event took on added significance with both teams having recorded 12 wins each with one match halved since the first fixture was played in 1991.

Playing for one point on both the front and back nine and one point for the overall result of each match the Glamorgan team made a disastrous start with President Geraint Davies playing with fellow Southerndown member Julian Golunski suffering a heavy 3-0 defeat to Peter Harris and Charlie Park.

In the next match in form Chris Watson partnered with David Williams could only gain half a point in their match against Ken Davies and Martin Richardson.

Gareth Perkins and Jim Hayes failed to get anything from their match against John Davies and Mike Williams allowing the Monmouthshire team to build a commanding lead.

The father and son combination of Tim and Dan Jarvis gave renewed hope for Glamorgan when they returned with two points against Gwyn Jones and Gary French with another two points gained by Clive Thomas and Tony McCarthy in their close match against Trevor Baker and John Duthie.

Glamorgan members are now focusing on the next society meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 29, at the Monmouth Golf Club, sponsored by NFU Mutual agents Kelly, Harris and Conlon.

T.McC

Anti-ash group's fighting fund for legal challenge

PLANS to bring Cardiff's incinerator ash to the east end of the dock, to extract metals and produce aggregate, are being legally challenged.

Documents were lodged last Friday, to challenge the Vale Council's approval. Environmental lawyers Richard Buxton are taking legal action on behalf of the Docks Incinerator Action Group (DIAG).

They have secured legal aid, on condition that the community collects funds to launch it.

Shirley Taylor, a

Hopes were raised even further when society captain Brian Jones and John Davies scored a maximum three points against Mike Daniel.

Bill Thomson followed soon after with another three points for Clive and Martyn Edwards, who easily won their match against Tom James and Gwyn Thomas.

Unfortunately for the visiting team, the following two matches secured just two points, as Trevor Wooding and Aubrey Thomas gained just one point in their match against John Morgan and Nick Hill and Glyn Watts-Jones, and Chris Rooney also returned with one point against Martin Ley and Tom Price.

With the final match still out on the course the Glamorgan team were looking to Godfrey Lewis, partnered with Martyn David, to return with maximum points in their match against Jonathan Davies and Malcolm Francis.

This proved too big a task, with the Monmouthshire pairing taking all three points to leave a final score of 12.5 points to Glamorgan against the Monmouthshire score of 17.5.

Nearest the pin competition on the par three holes were Tom Price, Jonathan Davis, John Morgan and Dan Jarvis.

Glamorgan members are now focusing on the next society meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 29, at the Monmouth Golf Club, sponsored by NFU Mutual agents Kelly, Harris and Conlon.

T.McC

Docks Incinerator Action Group activist spokesperson, said: "I'm working to raise funds for this appeal, and I hope the people will join us."

"DIAG will be setting up a 'fighting fund'. I have set up a petition on 38 Degrees. People can also view 'Stop the Barry Town Incinerator', on Facebook."

The DIAG Group will be meeting on Monday, October 26 at 7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, to organise fundraising and publicity.

They are hoping local people will offer their skills and support.

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Dinas Powys defeat St Josephs in the Plate

THIS SWALEC Plate contest provided the 'Villagers' of Dinas Powys with opposition from a higher division in the form of St Josephs from Cardiff.

Coach John Dunleavy and his team were in the unusual situation of having lost their last two games and a tough contest was anticipated against a team that had won their last three matches.

The breeze blowing along the Common from the village towards St Andrews was at the back of the visitors in the first half and this was a factor in outside half Ben White failing with an early long range penalty kick at goal.

The home side enjoyed the best of the early exchanges and powerful runs by flanker Lewys Dunleavy and right wing Mark Goode cheered the home crowd.

The visitors showed their quality by gathering a poor kick through and with smooth passing ran from their own tryline to score a stunning try.

They soon extended their lead, as they crossed for a second try after 20 minutes, following a prepared move from the base of a scrum.

The quality of the visitors was obvious as their threequarters had conjured two stunning tries, to lead by 12 points

with an hour of the game remaining.

The home team were stung into action as captain Huw Thomas led his charges by example and a frantic period of play ensued with centres Bryn Evans and John Morris to the fore during this phase of the contest.

The St Josephs' defence was robust and it was nearing half-time before the 'Villagers' finally opened their account, as outstanding full back Sam Middlemiss gathered a clearance kick in his own half and went on a mesmerising 40 metre run before passing to

scrum half Nathan Williams, who crossed in the corner.

The home side added to their score on the stroke of half time as White converted a long range penalty kick to make it 8-12.

The second half was largely dominated by the 'Villagers', to such an extent that the visitors failed to score during this period.

The home side ran in two second half tries, both the result of stunning interplay between forwards and backs.

Replacement scrum half Tom Davies crossed

for the first following another stunning break by Middlemiss, carried on by the energetic flanker Ryan Shallish before transferring to Davies.

The lead was extended by a further penalty from White, and victory was secured in the final minute of the game as right wing Rhys Evans maintained his try a game ratio and crossed in the corner to round off a stunning team try. Final score 21-12.

The 'Villagers' return to league action with a tricky away game at Pontyclun.

HJ

Bowlers impress

SULLY Indoor Bowls Championship side played their first home game of the season against Ogwr (Bridgend) hoping to get their season back on track after the poor performance the previous week at Taff Ely.

There were two late withdrawals but John Jones and Paul Gunter were brought in as replacements, allowing Sully to still field a strong team.

Sully were expecting to win as Ogwr are going through a transitional period having won all the recent matches and by the fifth end of the game Sully were already well ahead by 31 shots, 42 - 11.

By the 10th end Sully had gone further ahead by 58 shots with all rinks having the advantage. After 15 ends the overall score was well in favour of Sully with rinks skipped by Brian

Foscolo, Martin Clarke-Squires, Brian Griffiths and Ken McLeod well ahead by 28-7, 23-12, 24-6 and 18-8 respectively.

Matthew Woodcock was also holding a good lead, 17-10, but Steve Close's rink, who had always been in front, were now one shot down at 10-11.

With six ends to play Sully had an unassailable lead, 120-54, and as the game progressed it was a case of Sully securing full points, with five of the six rinks winning comfortably.

It was left to Close's rink to pull back their deficit but unfortunately the opposition were determined to take at least two points, eventually winning the rink 11-19.

Sully won overall by 58 shots, 145-87, securing 20 points; their next game is away to Newport on Saturday, October 31.

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PENARTH UNDER-13 HOCKEY TEAM MAKES A WINNING START!



Penarth hockey boys.

PENARTH under-13 boys' hockey team played in their first tournament last weekend at Whitchurch. Many of the boys have only started playing since September when training moved to Stanwell school.

The team made a winning start, beating Llan and Caer 3-0. Lewis Ingram and Elys Johnson were outstanding in attack, with Gabriel Pryde stopping any opposition attacks.

The second match against Abergavenny proved to be a sterner test. Abergavenny were aggressive and direct in attack with a very strong striker, they went 3-0 up but Elis Knight did manage to get a goal back. However, there was not enough time for Penarth to get back on level terms.

Despite the scoreline, Penarth played some really good hockey. Ross John and Aron McJennett-House were strong in defence but the goals came from break away attacks.

The final two games were against Whitchurch.

The Penarth boys beat their B team 2-1 with some excellent goals. They went 1-0 down but then Iwan Meddins made an excellent cross from the left which Max Poddar expertly put away to make it 1-1.

Iwan then went on to score an outstanding shot from the edge of the circle. Jack Ritchie provided some great defensive cover alongside Gabriel and Aron. Elis made some important saves in goal.

In the final game, Penarth took some time to break the deadlock despite lots of pressure from Ross,

Elys, Lewis and Iwan.

After half time, Lewis made a magnificent strike from the edge of the circle to beat the Whitchurch 'keeper, who had made several outstanding saves in the first half. Elys then managed to slot home.

Finally, the Penarth boys combined to score an outstanding team goal. Iwan, Max and then Lewis made some slick passes to score their third.

Meanwhile Jack had a super game in goal and Gabriel was tireless in defence.

Well done to all the Penarth boys, every member of the team contributed to a great morning of hockey.

Any boys interested in joining Penarth Hockey Club should come along to Stanwell School on Wednesdays 6.15pm-7.15pm.

MICHELLE MEDDINS

Juniors are back in action



Archie Gray????

JUNIOR tennis at Dinas Powys tennis Club is now back on after a break over the summer.

It is still Saturday mornings but is now 10am-11am. It has been very popular with youngsters, particularly with the pleasant September weather. Let's hope this continues over the colder winter months.

Archie Gray has continued to add to his tournament success over the summer with more recent wins in Swansea, Gloucester and Bolton.

He has a busy October where he is due to play at Cardiff University, Reading, Taunton, Gloucester and either Swansea or Southampton. We wish him every success in

those events. Juniors played a significant role in the recent Dilwyn Thomas competition. Amelia Davidson was runner-up with Dad, Paul in the B final, Libby Smith was runner-up in the A final with Alex Fowles, and Luke Davidson was victorious in the A final with Safiyyah Azeez.

Izaak Follon and Sophie Thomas also proved to be tough opponents in the qualifying group stage.

Finally, Amelia went on to be awarded the Sue Thomas plate for excellence over the year.

Forthcoming events include tennis camps over the half term holidays and our annual Halloween party on Saturday, October 31.

Barry and District ladies skittle league

LATEST results for Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for week commencing October 5 are as follows:

First division: SV Gals (L Kingman 30) 299, Bakers Dozen (E Lewis 35) 308; Special Angels (R Niblett, L Doughton, L Pearce 26) 268, Coppers (J Williams, J Ward, J Hartnell 25) 258; Allsorts (L Thomas 29) 260, Space Finders (N Morris 26) 260; Bobby's Girls (S Snelson 26) 255, Cigar Ladies (L Webb 23) 224; Colcot Ladies 216, Castle Bandits 251; Breakaways (V Martin 36) 295, Family and Friends (J Phillips 31) 319; Barry Stars (M Richards 34) 323, Family Affair (S Evans 32) 342.

Second division: Pila Palas (H Palfrey 24) 222, Little Devils (T Jones 25) 216; Cad Con Fillies (V Heard 26) 219, Vixens (J Pendrick 25) 221; Merry Makers (R Collins 29) 225, Castaways (K Billings 25) 243; Rhooose Ravers (J Lott 25) 249, Rhooose Starlights (K Bryan, H Pullin 22) 224; Witchill Widows (C Gregory, G McCarthy 30) 318, After Eights (A Jackson 29) 296; S V Lights (N Alsop 31) 260, Red Admiral (S Clements 30) 258; Witchill Weebies (R Royle 33) 312, Clickies (M Thomas 34) 308.

Third division: Rugby Triers (Sue Cogbill, L Wright, V Cawley 23)

233, La Bells (L Hughes 245) 221; Hill Billies (A Avariant 32) 313, Westenders (J Jeynes 33) 324; S V Ladies (F Butler 31) 302, Persuaders (K Scott 32) 268; Etcetera (P Tumilty, M Grashy, P Riddick 29) 297, Fallen Angels (C Stephens 28) 264; Airways Angels (A Sales 26) 217, Friends and Neighbours (B Nicholls 26) 210; Divas Williams, J (C Miller 28) 256, Roller Coasters (G Giles 26) 238; Twilights (C Brown 25) 202, Dolly Mixtures (J Preece 22) 200.

Fourth division: Off the Rails (S Crump 24) 223, Guardian Angels (R Chaplin 24) 224; Uptown Girls (J Marsh 30) 246, Challengers (J Jones 30) 233; Rebels (A Wilson 27) 204, Witchill Wanderers (C Reynolds 25) 196; Living on a Spare (A Finn 34) 297, Nite Outers (B Lowrie 38) 287.

September 28 - Fourth division: Challengers (J Huxter 28) 264, Rebels (S Akhtar 27) 269; Odd Bods (R Perry 31) 247, Of The Rails (C Williams 27) 252; Aristocats (M Rogers 25) 190, Liberals (G Shier, A Boyd 27) 222; Nite Outers (J Davies 25) 233, Societies (J Fumis 28) 211; Hell Raisers (M Nugent, A Bennett 25) 234, Living on a Spare (M Pring 24) 246; Witches (C Green 24) 220, Optimists (H Ball, J Holland 24) 229.

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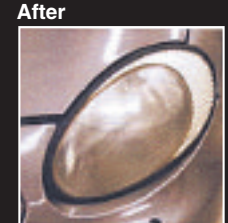
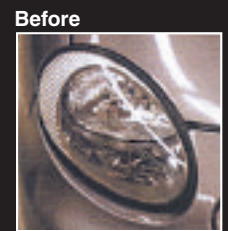
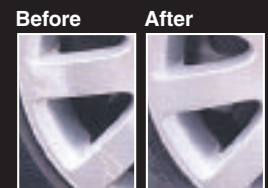
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Road racers who would run into trouble!

SO familiar is the sight of joggers pounding the streets these days that they barely get a second glance. However, it hasn't always been like that; just take a look at this article I wrote for the long-gone weekly paper, Reveille, dated October 23-29, 1971:

Life for long distance runners can be hazardous. I know because I used to be one. It was not the 10-mile daily stint that worried me. Like 30-miles-a-day man Dave Bedford, I enjoyed training.

To some people the sight of a runner plodding the streets has the same effect as showing a red flag to a bull.

Not content at shouting: 'Come on, Chataway', 'Here comes Gordon Pirie' or 'Why don't you catch a bus?', they will also shout swear words.

On one occasion, I was stoned by a gang of youths while taking part in a marathon race, while a team mate of mine was beaten up by a hooligan during a run.

Then there are the motorists who take great delight in sounding their horns as they speed past you. Some are even mad enough to force you off the road. During one road race, a motorist slid down his window and spat at me.

I do not know why some people react this way. I can only put it down to some form of jealousy. The biggest hazard to the road runner are dogs who have been let off their lead. Big or small, it makes little difference. While training in a park, I was once pinned down by an Alsatian: "He won't hurt you,"

said the owner – very comforting!

Of course, I could have jumped in the park's lake and swam to the other side, but after running about eight or nine miles, I did not feel quite up to it.

All that talk about the loneliness of the long distance runner is a myth. The trials and tribulations of the long distance runner is more like it!

These days, runners taking part in road races know that they will be well organised and that they will have run the correct distance. But it hasn't always been like that. Back in 1960, when I was a Roath (Cardiff) Harrier, I won the Monmouthshire 20-mile road race championship, beating Welsh international Ken Flowers by around half-a-mile. I clocked two hours, two minutes and 26 seconds. However, on remeasuring the course, it was found to be two miles too long!

The previous year, when I finished just 17 seconds behind the 1958 British Commonwealth Games marathon runner and Welsh champion Ron Franklyn, the course proved to be nearly two miles short!

In the 1980s, the Western Mail decided to put on a Cardiff marathon. I decided to make a 'comeback' and joined the Les Croupiers Road Running Club.

Not only was I a winning member of the team which won the Bristol Marathon three years on the bounce, I also won the over-45 veterans 1982 Dow Corning Barry Half-Marathon, clocking exactly one hour and 20 minutes.

Other veteran prizes that went my way included the Bridgend 10-mile road race, the Llanrumney

half-marathon and the South Glamorgan Cross Country Championship.

When I see the number of marathons, half-marathons and other races that runners have to choose from today, I feel a little bit of envy. When I started running back in the late 1950s, the only long distance race for runners like myself was the annual Welsh AAA Marathon Championship, which took place from Cardiff's Maindy Stadium and attracted around 10 runners at the most. These days, runners have thousands of competitors to run against, which can only be a good thing.

When I ran my first marathon from Maindy Stadium, tradition had it that Newport Harrier Tommy Wood led the runners out of the stadium gates. But silly me beat him to it, just so that my mother could hear my name mentioned on the radio! It was a case of first out of the stadium and last man in, with me clocking over three hours!

I was told that Welshman Tom Richards, the 1948 Olympic Games Marathon silver medalist, would be running in the Welsh Marathon. I expected to see a smartly-attired athlete, so imagine my surprise when Tom, who turned up late (he had to have a taxi from the General Railway Station and they held the race up for him) appeared wearing a rust-stained vest and wearing ordinary daps or plimsolls on his feet!

I managed to run with Tom for about three miles at the most until he drew right away from me. The next time I saw him was outside Tredegar House sitting on a grass verge, having his feet attended to by a first aid man. Just days before, he had won the Isle of Man 37 miles road race and his feet were still covered in blisters.

One embarrassing Maindy Stadium moment was the time I had just returned from a 10-mile training run when the club's star half-miler, who had wanted to run a 660 yard time trial, was still waiting for the athlete who was going to act as his pacemaker to turn up. I volunteered to take his place, but the star half-miler, who shall remain nameless, was not impressed when I not only paced him, but beat him too, clocking just inside 90 seconds!

Another was the time I ran in a mile race and I was in last place when one of the runners in front of me fell down; 'At least I won't be last now,' I thought, but to my surprise, he got back up, seemed to take a while thinking whether he should carry on, did so and still managed to beat me!

Sadly, at 79, my running days are over, but at least I have my memories of those happy days.

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee



The GEM's Brian Lee with the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, W J Hartland in 1964, when he had the honour of running from Cardiff to Mountain Ash with a New Year message which opened the famous Nos Galan road race proceedings.

Wins for Tim and Evan

VALE trainers Tim Vaughan and Evan Williams both saddled winners at the recent Ludlow National Hunt meeting, writes BRIAN LEE.

Tim's *Uncle Tone*, ridden by M G Nolan, won the two miles, five furlongs hurdle, finishing 12 lengths ahead of the favourite *Samtu* and Evan's *Still Believing*, partnered by Adam Wedge, took the two miles, seven furlongs and 174 yards handicap hurdle by four-and-a-half lengths from the co-favourite *Jean Fleming*. *Uncle Tone* was a 3-1 chance and *Still Believing* went off at odds of 8-1.

Wolves reach semi-finals

DINAS Wolves set about their game with Sully Reds in a style that is not normally associated with them, coming out the blocks at 100mph.

Notoriously slow starters, the young Wolves were two goals the better in the opening 15 minutes thanks to some unselfish work from Booker and Harewood, Hewitson and Saunders being the scorers.

The Dinas goal was rarely threatened as Tylor Williams,

Lewis, Frost and Mallum gave Morris plenty of protection and dealt with the Sully forwards very well.

Skipper Fifield, Harewood and Doughty were winning plenty of balls in the middle, wide players Booker and Hewitson linked up very well with their fullbacks Frost and Mallum and looked to create overlaps, while Saunders knew his job and never allowed the Sully back four time to play.

The second half was more of the same and with the introduction of Perria and O'Brien wide, and Quest and Mossey at full back, the

villagers never lost their shape. Booker added a third as his pace and strength proved too much.

Sully pulled a goal back with minutes remaining but Dinas should have put the game to bed a lot sooner as plenty of players were guilty of missing chances.

Man of the match was a hard call between the always-running Harewood and hard-tackling Doughty, but the players decided it deserved to go to T Williams, who put in a faultless display at centre-half.

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QUALIFYING HOODOO IS OVER... Now the really hard work starts for Chris Coleman and Wales!

IT'S been something of a rollercoaster watching the Welsh football team in recent years.

In my memory, we've been a penalty kick away from qualifying for the World Cup of 1994, had the ignominy of the Bobby Gould reign, seen a nation rebuild under Mark Hughes and be a whisker away from making the finals of the 2004 European Championships, had John Toshack putting his faith in the 'kids' and being cruelly exposed.

Gary Speed then took those youngsters and instilled in them belief and confidence before his heartbreaking death, and Chris Coleman, a man who was close to reaching the same vilified lows as Toshack, took his time to bed in before giving the nation real hope of achieving success.

That the cherry on top of the cake came in a disappointing 2-0 reverse in Bosnia mattered little in the heat of the moment; while it was sad to see Wales slip to their first loss of the qualifying campaign, results elsewhere confirmed what we had all believed since we drew 0-0 with Israel last month - that Wales had qualified for the 2016 European Championships.

While the subsequent 2-0 win over Andorra wasn't enough to lift them back to the summit of their group, it did however lead to rampant celebrations from a sold-out 33,000 crowd at the Cardiff City Stadium as the carnival-like atmosphere overshadowed what was, in truth, a particularly cumbersome game of football, enlivened only by goals from Aaron Ramsey and - of course - Gareth Bale.

Post-match, as the players celebrated on the pitch having become the first

by **GARETH JAMIESON**

squad since the World Cup squad of 1958 to reach a major tournament, thoughts would no doubt have turned to the next chapter of Welsh football - after all, the belief that Coleman and his squad can go on and achieve more is palpable, particularly when it comes to Europe's showpiece tournament in France next summer.

Even the news that Wales will be in the bottom pot of teams when the draw is made in December did little to dampen spirits - not because we're simply happy to be there, but because we have shown that we are capable, on our day, of matching any team and the opportunity to test themselves on this stage is one that the team will be relishing.

In the short term, there are friendly games to be played in both November and next March, with the likes of Poland, Portugal, Holland and even Argentina mooted as possible opponents, top-level opposition designed to give Wales the toughest test before they start their Euro test.

In the long-term, there is the more than achievable goal of emulating that squad of 1958 and reaching the 2018 World Cup finals. In a group that will see us face off with the Republic of Ireland, Serbia, Georgia and Moldova, Wales may well be top seeds, but know that a tricky set of fixtures lies in store in their bid to make it to Russia.

Tricky but not impossible, especially if the foundations that have served the team so well in this campaign remain in place. Coleman's contract may well be up after the Euros but it's a certainty he

will be aiming to guide the team to the World Cup, while on the pitch strong defence, led by the imperious and resolute Ashley Williams, has set up an attack led by the world-class skill and guile of Gareth Bale, but anchored by the indomitable work ethic of Hal Robson-Kanu, to name but three players in a squad who have all played out of their skins.

The one thing that the team will have to battle against is expectation - while their success hasn't been a total shock, the rest of the footballing world will have sat up and taken notice and they will no longer be a surprise package. As both Israel and Andorra showed, teams will be happy to sit deep and not allow the impact players of Ramsey and Bale to get the space to create opportunities, making it more difficult for teams to be broken down.

Wales showed in these games their ability to create openings, but not always the ability to take the chances when they came their way, and more cutting-edge in front of goal will be imperative to help the team kick on.

While the qualification dream has been achieved, and, seemingly, most of Wales has designs on sampling all the hospitality France can muster come next summer, the bigger picture must not be forgotten.

This isn't the culmination of years of hard work, begun by John Toshack as he threw his young charges in at the deep end, but the start of a grander adventure, one that can see this hardy squad of players, led by Chris Coleman, achieve whatever they set their minds to.

This group has captured the hearts and attention of a nation - let's hope this is just the beginning of the good times for this, Wales' 'golden generation'



The Barry Comprehensive School team are ready to take on the best the world has to offer!

Barry school in Youth World Cup

AT the end of the summer term, the Barry Comprehensive School under-13 football team travelled to Gothenburg, Sweden to compete in the Youth World Cup.

The tournament, which attracted teams from over 80 countries, is considered the premier youth tournament in the world and provided a superb week for our football mad team as they looked to challenge the world's best players.

A 15-strong squad arrived on Saturday prior to the start of the tournament and played a friendly match against a local team before witnessing an unbelievable opening ceremony attended by 40,000 people.

The group stage of the tournament saw three games against Swedish opposition and a gritty encounter with Georgian opponents. Games were of a high quality and parents were even able to watch the games through live streaming over the internet.

It was a steep learning curve for the boys, but they adapted quickly to achieve a respectable third place

finish in the group and advanced into to the round of 128 in the knock out stage.

The boys then went on a superb run, beating two more Swedish teams before bowing out in the round of 16 against representatives from the host nation.

It was a Herculean effort by the boys to advance so far into the competition, sometimes playing two games a day and coping admirably with frequently travelling to and from games.

In the end, the team simply had no more to give and the competition physios had their hands full patching the boys up!

Throughout the week the boys had opportunities to visit the Heden centre which played host to the elite competition and even got to have photographs with Newcastle United players and coaching staff.

The boys returned home after eight days away to a heroes welcome from their families, safe in the knowledge that this would be an experience they will never forget.

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Depleted Ath battle against Cardiff Met



Stuart Edbrooke and Sean Williams in action.
PICTURES BY GLENNSPORTS

BRIDGEND Athletic entertained Cardiff Metropolitan with a starting line-up reminiscent of Wales' backs' injury list.

Six players from last season were injured, including the previous week's centre partnership and full back. During the game they also lost full back Lewis Evans and centre Michael Hathaway after the pair had scored three of their four tries in a losing bonus point, 32-24 defeat.

To both sides' credit, the game was entertaining with both teams crossing for four well-worked tries apiece, but the students' more accurate goal kicking was the difference.

The Met opened the scoring with a penalty from their outside half George Simpson. The Athletic responded with a well-crafted try for full back Lewis Evans which took him past the 50 points mark for the season.

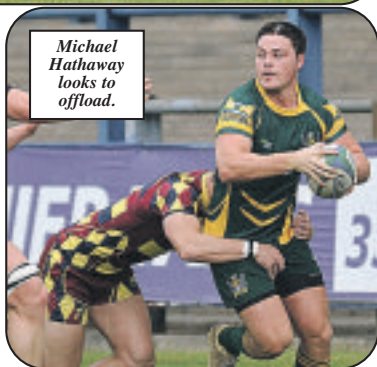
The move started from a scrum 40 metres out with half backs Jake Williams and Scott Govan bringing centres Michael Hathaway and Sean Wilcox into play.

Full back Lewis Evans entered the line at speed and rounded the full back to cross in the corner. Govan converted from the touchline.

The students responded with a similar try from their full back Ollie Glas, converted by Simpson to open up a 10-7 lead.

Good work by the Athletic back row of No 8 Stuart Edbrooke and flankers Sean Williams and Ben Howe set up a platform to release the backs and Lewis again entered the line to cross for his second of the game, and his fourth try of the season.

He is now both the leading try and points scorer with 59 points for the Athletic so far this season. Govan converted to give the Athletic a 14-10 half-time lead.



Michael Hathaway looks to offload.

The Athletic were disrupted in the first minute of the second half with Evans and prop Matt Muir leaving the field to be replaced by Tom Jenkins and Lewis Davies, necessitating the Athletic reorganising their back division.

The students capitalised and in a seven-minute period added a penalty through Simpson and two tries by John Dawe and Ashley Taylor, both converted by Simpson, to open up a 27-14 advantage.

The Athletic steadied the ship with good work by front row forwards Zach Evans and Nathan Holman and driving play by locks Darren Deguerre and Jonathon Stoker, and his replacement Griff Davies.

This took the Athletic onto the front foot and when the ball was released to the backs, wing Craig Lewis passed inside to Michael Hathaway who ran 30 metres to cross wide out.

Unfortunately he pulled a hamstring during the move and the Athletic had to reorganise their back division for a second time with wing Liam Phillips joining the action.

The Met then opened up play from a quick tap penalty inside their own half and a flowing move saw Corey Whane stretch the lead to 32-19.

To their credit, the Athletic, with three youth players now on the field in their back division, kept going and were

rewarded with a bonus point when a long pass saw Liam Phillips cross in the corner to earn a bonus point with four tries.

Had the conversion been successful the Athletic would have secured a second losing bonus point – but the touchline kick was just wide of the uprights.

The Athletic visit Pontypool this Saturday hoping some of the backline will overcome their injuries. Their next home game is a local derby against Tata Steel on November 7 at Newbridge Fields.

AB

NEWS FROM Porthcawl Bridge Club

THE annual charity pairs competition was held this month, with Pat Haworth and Gary Williams winning the trophy.

The trophy was donated many years ago by the late Marie Ratcliffe, who was not only a prominent local bridge player, but through her bridge classes, taught many of our existing members the art of the game.

The table money for the evening was supplemented by a raffle, enabling the club to raise £115 for the RNLI.

Saturday, October 3: First, Dian Jones and Kath Grossey; second,

Kate Craven and Janet Richards.

Thursday, October 8: First, Gary Williams and Pat Haworth; handicap, Connie Dick and Janet Richards.

Saturday, October 10: First, Dil and Marian Evans; Second, Kath Grossey and Audrey Tinkler.

Thursday, October 15: First, Terry Dolan and Roger Plant; Handicap, Alwyn Hill and David Rance.

The club meets twice a week, Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor Centre, 7pm-10.15pm visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, telephone Trish on 01656 785794.

TH



Jamie Mears and Scott Waller.
PICTURE BY PETER GILLING

Kenfig Hill's Plate win over Maesteg

The young Mules side got off to a flying start against local rivals Maesteg in this SWALEC Plate encounter, with two tries in quick succession by Tom Davies and Luke Griffiths; both were converted by Lloyd Giles.

Maesteg got on the scoreboard with a penalty midway through the first half but the home side responded with a try by Kristian Stenner.

Flanker Harry Hillier-Rees then scored Maesteg's first try which was converted by Laurence Howley; but the Mules rounded off the half strongly with another well-taken try by Stenner, converted by Lloyd Giles, to make the score 24-10 at half-time.

The Mules started the second half well with a length of the field try involving the back row and finished off by Jason Davies.

Maesteg then began to up their game by scoring two more tries through Rhydian Stokes and Steffan Knatiuk.

The game then became a more tense affair before Kenfig Hill scored a penalty by Lloyd Giles. Maesteg came back yet again with a well-taken try by Rhys

Costain, converted by Laurence Howley.

It was a close run thing at the end but the Mules eventually won, 32-27.

KENFIG HILL SECONDS 54, ABERAVON QUINS 50

Calculators were required at Meadow Lane in an early kick off on Saturday for an entertaining game of second team rugby between Kenfig Hill and Aberavon Quins.

Kenfig Hill raced into a early 14-0 lead with tries by returning prop Steve Smith, who barged over from close range, and centre Curtis Kerton, who profited from a Quins knock on.

However, Aberavon Quins came back strongly with three quick tries of their own to go into a 17-14 lead. Centre Kerton scored again from a speculative kick forward from Shaun Evans and fly half Michael Rawnsdon then showed a great turn of pace to go over from 40 yards; centre Thomas Maund also forced his way over from a line out close to the Quins' line to make it 35-17.

Quins responded with another two quick tries of their own to make it 35-29 at half-time to the Mules.

Maesteg notched the first score of the second half which continued in the same way as the first to move in front for the first time.

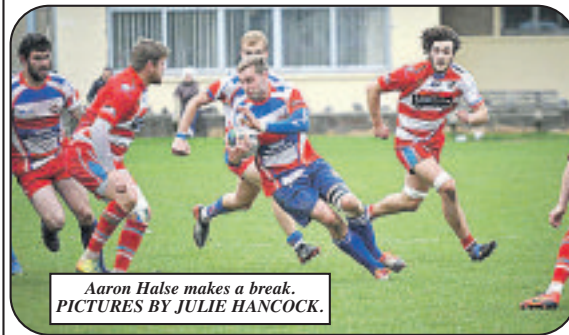
Kenfig Hill moved back in front with two tries from hooker Joe Williams, with another late try taking them over 50 points.

But Quins weren't finished and scored two tries in the last 10 minutes to move within a score of the Mules at 54-50.

However, the Mules held on to take the win – although both sides ended up scoring eight tries apiece, the superior kicking of full back Shaun Evans, with seven conversions, made the difference.

DD

PENCOED EASE TO PLATE WIN



Aaron Halse makes a break.
PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK.



Pencoed under-15s progressed in the Ospreys Cup.

PENCOED first XV eased to a comfortable 55-19 win against lower-ranked Cwmgor in this Swalec Plate fixture.

The home side scored eight tries but credit to the visitors who scored a gutsy four tries of their own.

Tries came from Lloyd Bargery (two), Gareth Prentice (two), Tom Cross, David Young, Aaron Halse and Adam Williams, who also kicked the remaining points.

It's back to First Division action this week, October 24, with what promises to be a very tough game against the Old Parish Maesteg at home. They have the same number of points as Pencoed.

There was a good away win for the Pencoed youth at Waunarlwydd, winning 10-0, with tries from Owain Clarke and Chris Cooper. The side were dominant in the set piece, both in scrum and lineout – on-wards and up-wards.

JH Pencoed under-15s took on local rivals Tondy in the third round of the Ospreys Cup.

Pencoed cemented their place into the cup knockout stages with an impressive 38-3 victory against a physical Tondy side.

Pencoed have one away game left to Kenfig Hill to go in the group stages, but cemented their place with their third win out of three games in the pool stages.

This was a tough encounter with the score 0-0 until halfway through the first half, when No 8 Cael Chamberlain pick from the back of a scrum and held off four tackles to go in under the posts, which was converted by



Adam Williams.

fly half Sam Costelow.

Tondy pressure from the restart gave them a penalty in the Pencoed 22 which fly half Jacob Thomas slotted to make the score 7-3.

Centre Josh Sands then marked his return from injury with a strong run from the Tondy 10 metre line to score which was converted by Sam Costelow. The half-time whistle then blew with Pencoed 14-3 up.

Pencoed restarted and Josh Sands reclaimed the kick off and passed to centre Tom Bending who ran in in the corner, making the score 19-3.

Tondy then camped on Pencoed line but heroic defence let by captain Ed Biebrach, Cael Chamberlain, and Owain Johns kept turning over Tondy ball.

Forwards Rhys Spurgeon, Rhys Sandford, Will Chen and Tom Sly tackled hard around the fringes to keep Tondy from crossing the line.

The next try came from a strong run from Tom Sly, who offloaded to flanker Jono Carr to

score under the posts which was converted by Sam Costelow, making the score 26-3.

A nice backs move then saw Josh Sands go over for his second try which was converted by Sam Costelow to make the score 33-3.

Tondy pushed hard again on the Pencoed line and set up a maul. No 8 Cael Chamberlain and second row Huw Evans ripped the ball out and the ball was moved along the line and Tom Bending put winger Dan Keoharn into space on his own 22.

Dan showed great pace to outrun three Tondy cover defenders to score in the corner to make the final score 38-3.

This was a great win for Pencoed and a good performance by Tondy made it a great game to watch.

Well done Pencoed on the win and progression to the knock out stages with one game to go, scoring 139 points and conceding 17 in three matches.

GC



The GEM SALUTES WELSH HEROES ALL!



Over and out... a dream ends, but didn't they do Wales proud?



**BACK PAGE
COMMENT**
by
Don John

LEFT: Sam's the man...The disappointment is clear as skipper Warburton leads his gallant band off the field at Twickenham for the last time in Rugby World Cup 2015.

RIGHT: Kiwi convert to Welsh colours, Gareth Anscombe, shows the sense of purpose that has marked the injury-hit Welsh team's display throughout the tournament.



Pictures courtesy of
Huw Evans Agency



LEFT: a sad sight that was the story of Wales' World Cup campaign.

AS Wales' brave 2015 Rugby World Cup campaign finally came to an end, with a heart-rending quarter final defeat to South Africa on Saturday, head coach Warren Gatland summed up his team's battling display in typically honest fashion:

"The players put their bodies on the line and gave it everything - but, unfortunately, we weren't good enough to hold on for 80 minutes".

Admitting the Welsh camp was "absolutely gutted" by the 19-23 result at Twickenham, after leading by one point with just five minutes to go to the final whistle, Gatland rightly expressed pride in the injury-ravaged squad which had performed a minor miracle in even surviving the 'pool of death' that had claimed hosts England, and had come within a whisker of again making a World Cup semi-final, following on the drama of four years ago in New Zealand.

With so many first choice players missing from the line-up, felled by a seemingly never-ending injury toll that stretched back even before the tournament kicked off, Lady Luck seemed to have deserted the Welsh cause, which was already weighed under by history.

The scale of the physical challenge facing the much-depleted team was that the Springboks had won 27 of the 30 clashes between the two nations since 1906, with one match drawn, and had amassed 814 points to 440 against.

It had taken Wales until Rugby World Cup year 1999 to record their first victory (29-19) at the half-completed Millennium Stadium; the only previous success was a hard-earned 6-6 draw at the old National Stadium in 1970.

However, memories were still fresh of losing by a single point after rocking South Africa in their pool match at the 2011 World Cup in Wellington, New Zealand; and the team were also buoyed by their most recent meeting - a 12-6 win in the

autumn 'friendly' in Cardiff.

Certainly, to their credit, and despite all the injury misfortunes that have plagued the current campaign, which has seen relative newcomers drafted in to fill gaps in the ranks, and others having to perform out of position - as Gatland was forced to shuffle and reshuffle his cards - the squad has shown its courage and character under fire.

Through it all, morale and confidence remained high and it showed again from the outset on Saturday, with Wales immediately on the charge through George North, but falling behind to four penalties by outside half Handre Pollard in a first quarter that would prove decisive; even though Wales hit back with a well-struck penalty kick by opposite number Dan Biggar - who also won a trademark aerial challenge, offloaded to scrum half Gareth Davies, and promptly converted the resulting try in front of the posts.

Welsh errors in execution, both forced and unforced, were costing them dear - not helped by some mystifying decisions, particularly at the breakdown - by whistle-happy referee Wayne Barnes, but just before halftime, after unusually missing with a third penalty attempt that bounced off an upright, Biggar made amends with a smartly-taken drop goal for a one-point 13-12 lead at the interval.

Play resumed with Wales again competing strongly, but still prone to error, conceding a penalty which fortunately was off target.

Biggar then increased the lead to four points (16-12) when it was the South Africans' turn to offend Mr Barnes - only for Pollard to narrow it again to one point (16-15) with a drop goal, before misdirecting another penalty attempt.

This was the signal for the Welsh defence to come under a lengthy period of sustained pressure and in a see-saw encounter it culminated in Pollard's boot regaining the initiative (18-16), only for Biggar to step up when it was the Springbok eight's turn to be penalised at the breakdown and he wrested back a fragile one-point lead.

Five minutes from time, with the score 19-18 and despite having missed several promising opportunities, Wales could see a famous victory (and another semi-final spot) in sight. But as against Australia the previous week, and on so many occasions against southern hemisphere sides, Wales were cruelly thwarted even as anxious eyes were turning towards the clock.

Despite dominating territory and possession, South Africa, who had not looked remotely like scoring a try, suddenly changed their blitzkrieg, bullyboy approach to a canny blindsides ploy with a training ground try in the corner by scrum half and captain Fourie du Preez.

It snatched a 23-19 victory - to the despair of the Wales camp and their large army of red-clad supporters - as the World Cup dream suddenly evaporated for another four years.

However, unlike France who were humiliated (62-13) by awesome Kiwis and Ireland pulverised (43-20) by the Pumas, the Welsh players exited the field with their heads held high, to resounding applause from friends, foes, and neutrals alike in the packed stands.

Truly it can be said that this still young team has done Wales proud in the face of unprecedented adversity, and there is much to build on as they return to their day jobs.

Nevertheless, with unlucky Scotland's controversial one-point defeat (34-35) to Australia, it is a sobering fact that there will be no northern hemisphere representation in the closing stages of Rugby World Cup 2015.

It's proof enough that the gap between it and the southern hemisphere, particularly when it comes to that crucial last 5-10 minutes, has not been closed just yet.

Wales have qualified for Euro 2016 - but the hard work has only just begun! Read GARETH JAMIESON's thoughts on page 41.

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